

DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH

BATMAN

BEYOND

"A quality and welcome return
to the world of *Batman Beyond*."
IGN



JOHNSON

VOL. 2 **RISE OF THE DEMON**

DAN JURGENS • BERNARD CHANG • MARCELO MAIOLO





BATMAN BEYOND

VOL.2 RISE OF THE DEMON



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BATMAN BEYOND VOLUME 2: RISE OF THE DEMON

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CHANG
mesole

DECADES FROM NOW.

**NEO-GOTHAM, FORMERLY
KNOWN AS GOTHAM CITY.**

FASTER!

CHIK

P-TANG

PAPPT

PRANNG

**SURRENDER
AND WE WILL
MAKE YOUR
DEATH A
PAINLESS
ONE.**



FOR
THERE IS NO
ESCAPING...

THE
LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS!

FUTCH

SWITT

SWITT

CAREFUL!
GET TOO
CLOSE AND--
GKK--!

PUTCH

THIS ONE
EXCEEDS HER
REPUTATION.

I
SHOULD HAVE
EXPECTED AS
MUCH...

...FROM
CURARE.

SWITT

SLATCH



WITT

GUH--!

PAPT



YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN.



NOT SO.



SHE LEAPS TO HER DEATH?



NO.



SHE BUYS TIME.

NOTHING MORE.



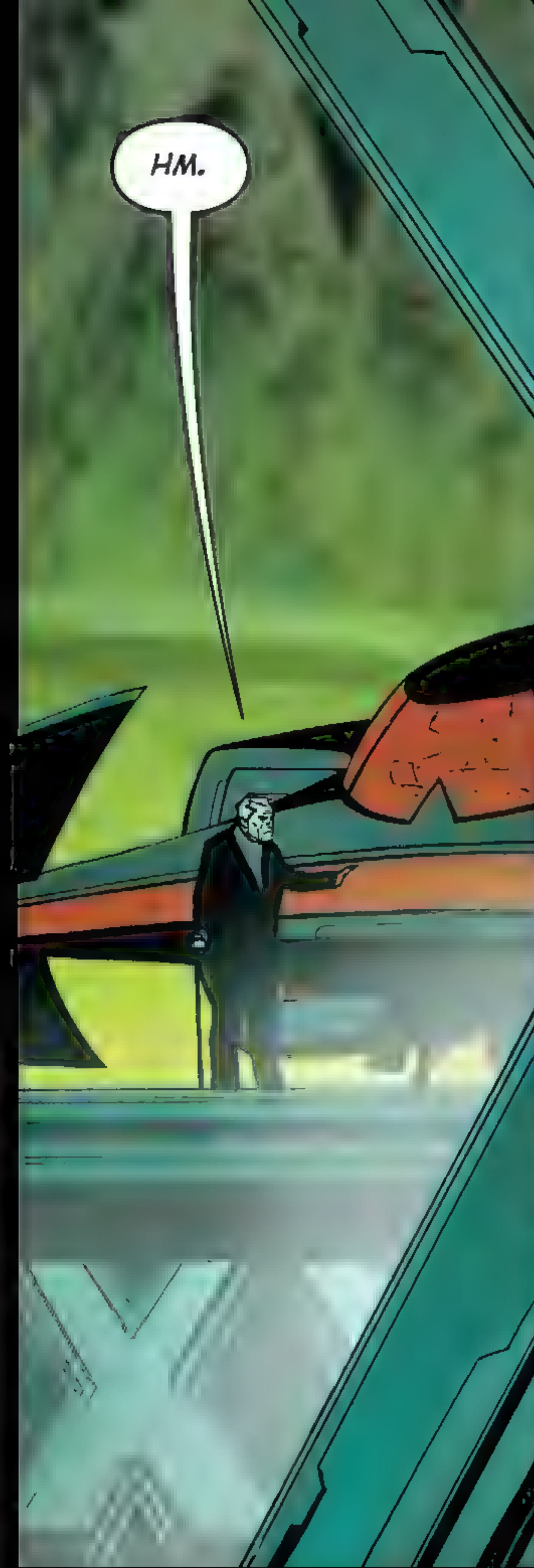
WELCOME HOME, MR. WAYNE.

TERRY KEPT EVERYTHING JUST THE SAME!

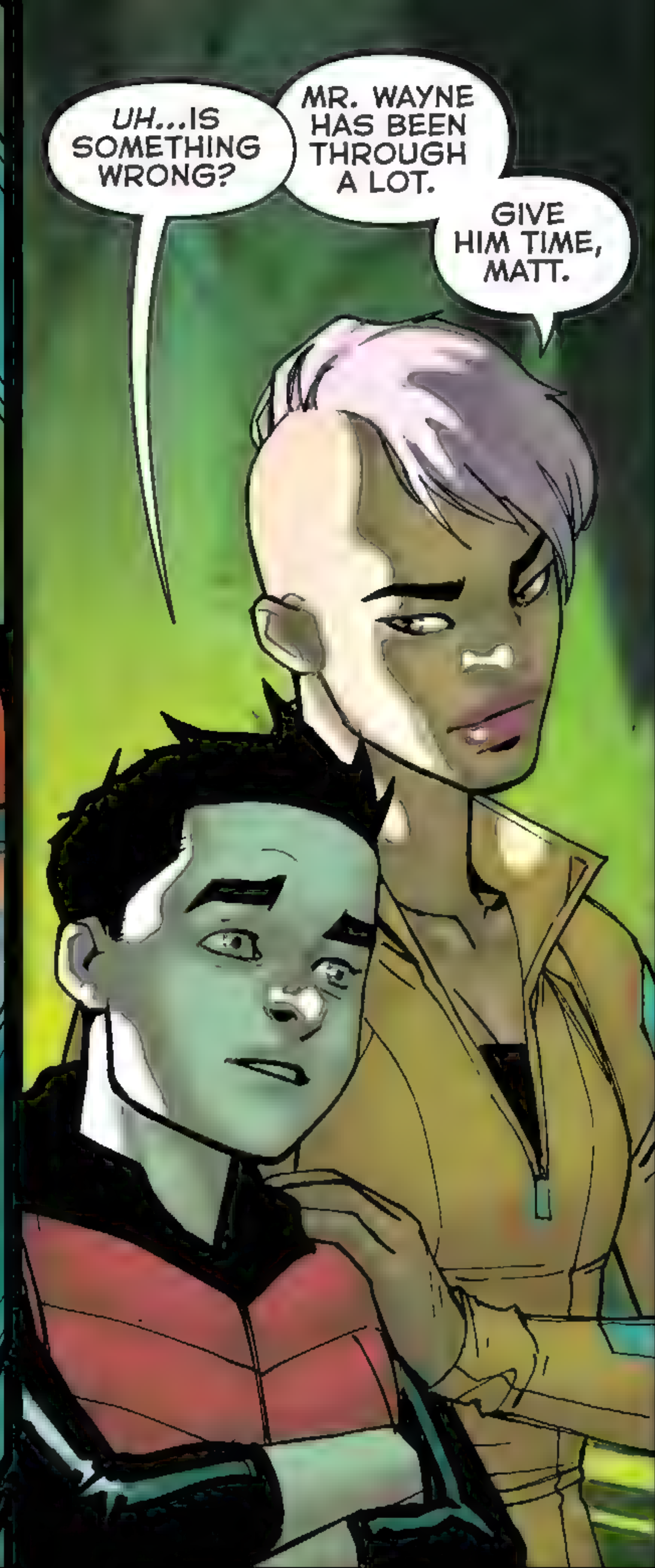
DIDN'T CHANGE A THING!

RISE OF THE DEMON PART 1

DAN JURGENS WRITER	BERNARD CHANG ART	MARCELO MAIOLO COLOR	TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERS
CHANG & MAIOLO: COVER			
ROB LEVIN: ASSISTANT EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR			



HM.



UH...IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MR. WAYNE HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

GIVE HIM TIME, MATT.



I'M FINE, MAX.



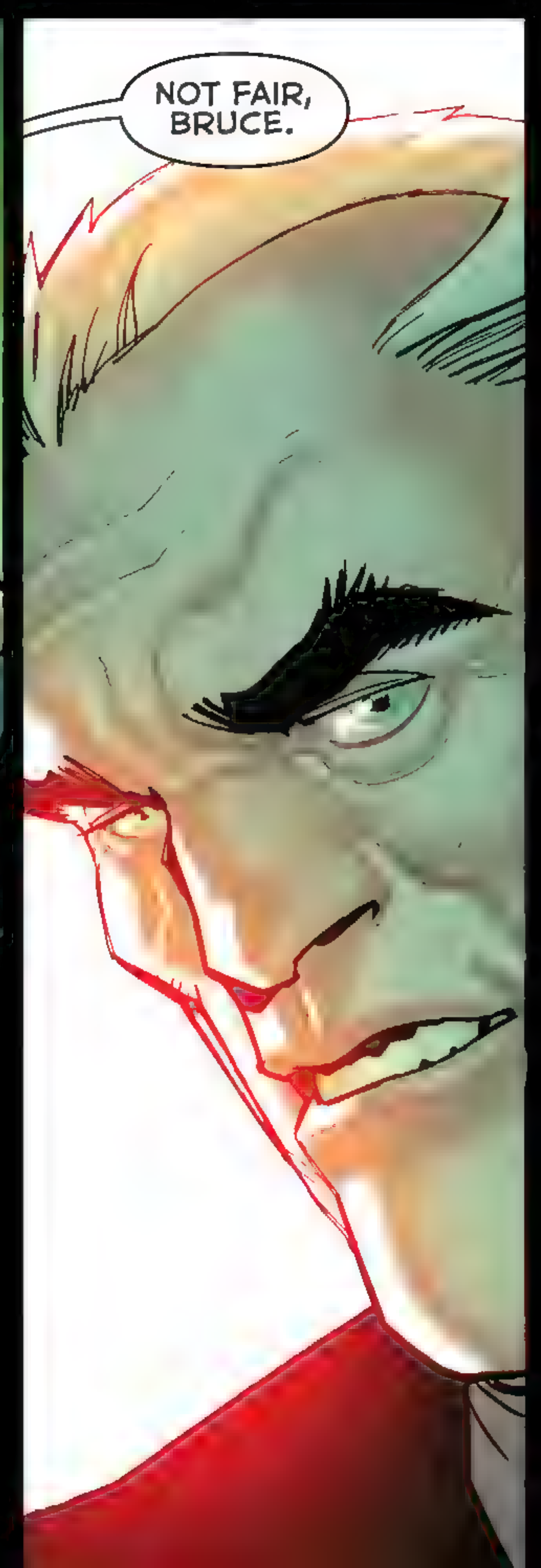
EVEN THOUGH TERMINAL HELD YOU PRISONER FOR--

I SAID I'M FINE.



TERRY DIDN'T KEEP EVERYTHING THE SAME.

THE BATCAVE WAS NEVER A HANGOUT FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.



NOT FAIR, BRUCE.



THIS PLACE IS REAL?

WOWWW...

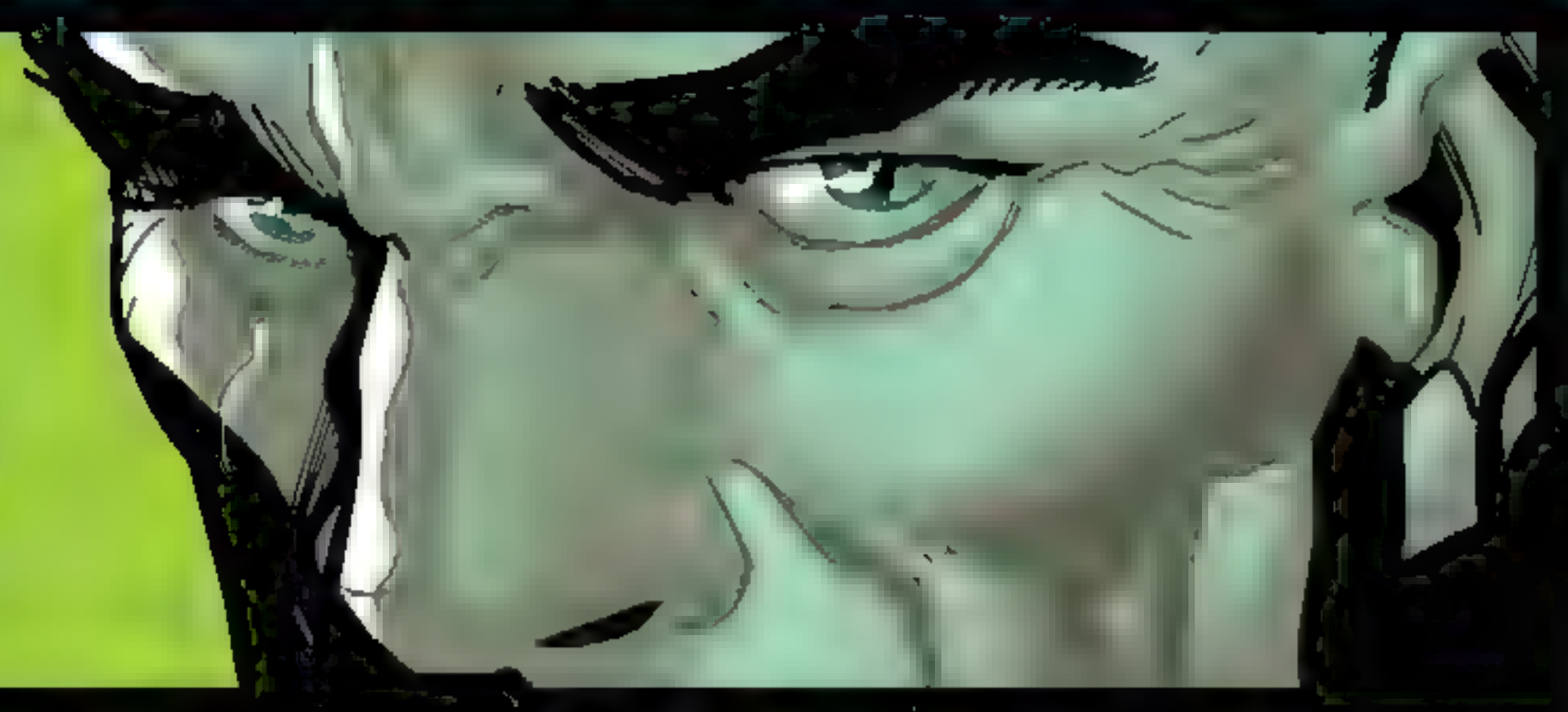
WE HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE STILL ALIVE.

IF I WAS GOING TO MAKE BEING *BATMAN* WORK, I NEEDED FRIENDS AND FAMILY AROUND ME.

NO INSULT INTENDED. JUST MAKING AN OBSERVATION...

...THAT A LOT HAS CHANGED.

THE WORLD I WOKE UP TO IS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE I KNEW.



I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.

I WAS GONE FOR A WHILE MYSELF.

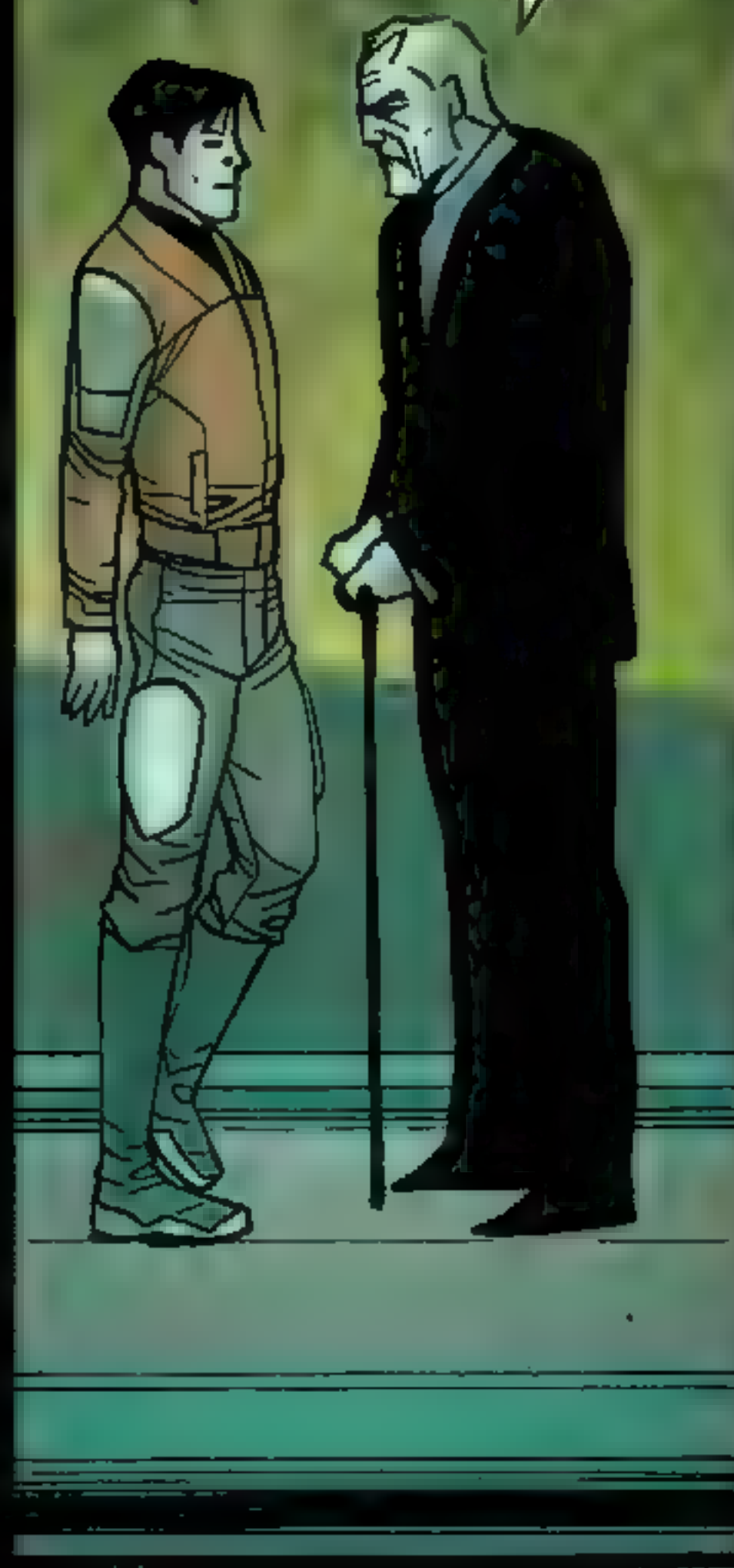
MAX SAID AS MUCH.

WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.

BEYOND BEING *BATMAN*.

BROTHER EYE ALMOST TORE THE WORLD APART.

BUT WE'RE RECOVERING.



GOTHAM IS WELL ON THE WAY.

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD--NOT AS MUCH.

IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU TWO HAVE A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO.

WE CAN TALK LATER.

DANA?

WHY DON'T YOU STAY SO WE CAN--

MR. WAYNE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO ADJUST, TERRY.

FINDING OUT YOU'RE BATMAN TOOK MY BREATH AWAY.

I MEAN--I'M STANDING IN THE BATCAVE!

SCHWAY AS THAT MIGHT BE, IT SHOWS THAT I HAVE A LOT TO THINK THROUGH.

HOLD UP.

I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT.

WAIT HERE SO WE CAN TALK LATER, BRUCE?

"WAIT HERE"?

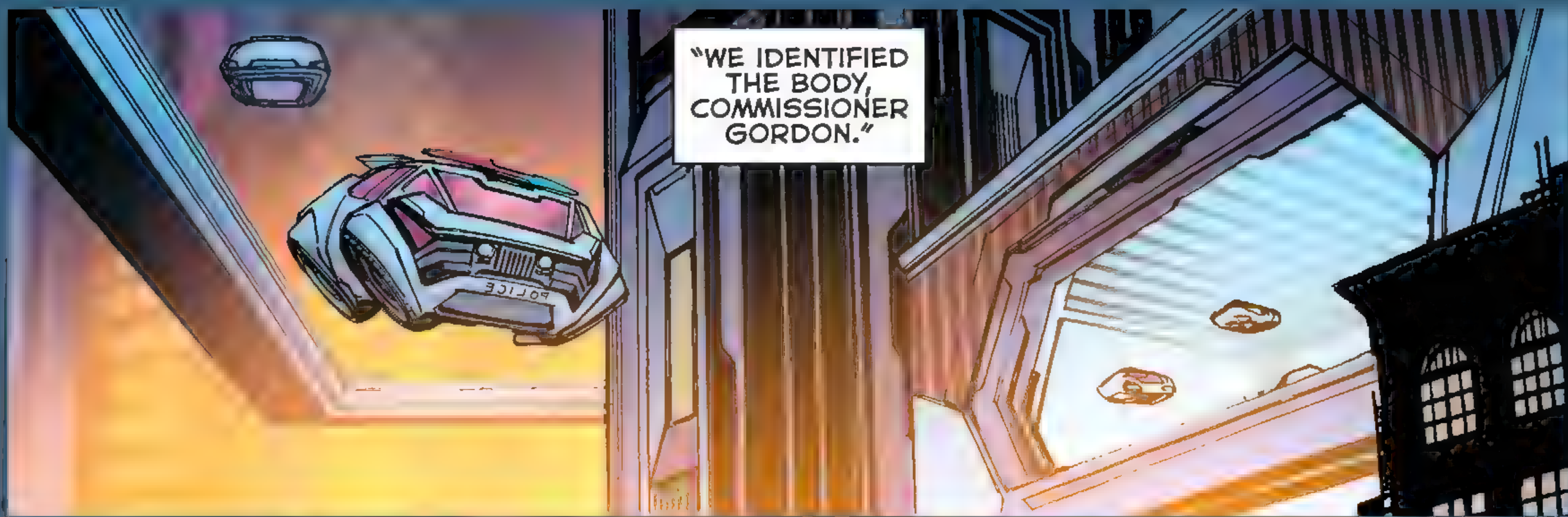
WHERE ELSE WOULD I GO?

GOOD. BECAUSE I'M REALLY GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

...

LATER.

HM.



"WE IDENTIFIED
THE BODY,
COMMISSIONER
GORDON."



CARTER
WILSON--A.K.A.
TERMINAL.

SAVAGELY
BEATEN TO
DEATH. WITH A
CROWBAR.

ANY
IDEA WHO
DID IT?

NONE.
MIGHT'VE BEEN
SOMEONE WHO
HAPPENED ACROSS
HIM AFTER HIS
FLIER WENT
DOWN.

TERMINAL
WAS TOO SMART--
TOO COMPETENT
FOR THAT.

HAD TO BE SOMEONE
CLOSE. SOMEONE HE
TRUSTED.

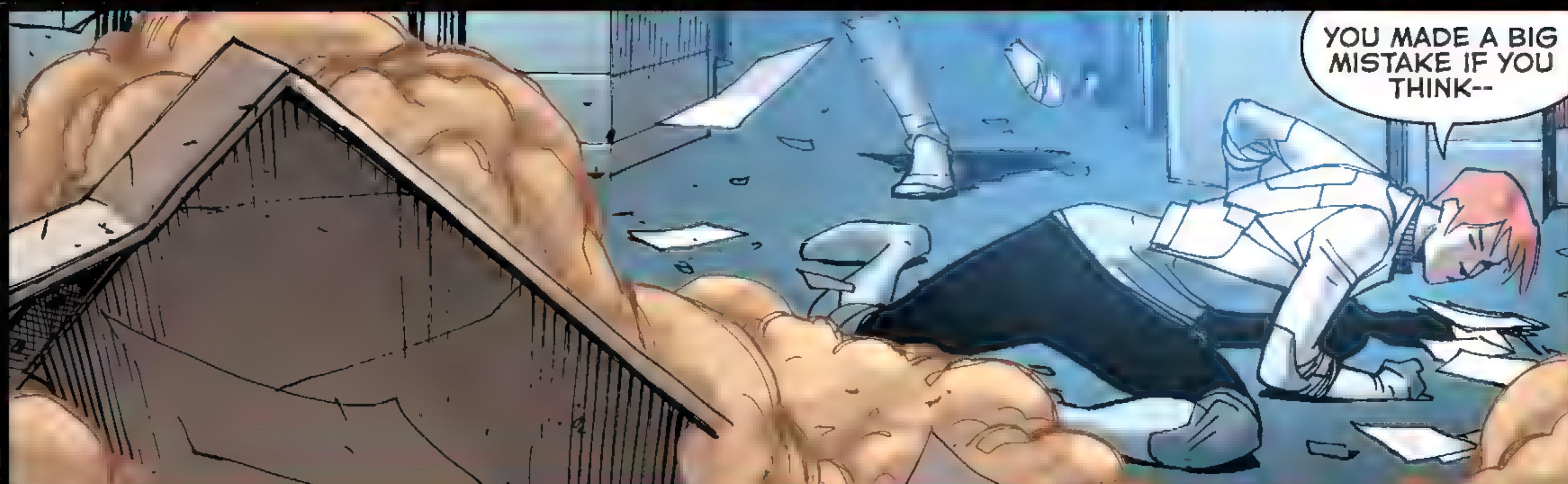
DIG
SOME
MORE.

RIGHT
NOW I NEED
TO...

...TO...

SOMEONE'S
HERE.

WHUD





WATCHA DOIN',
MR. WAYNE?

INVESTIGATING.

TERMINAL,
LOOKS LIKE.
IS IT TRUE HE'S
DEAD?

YES.
KILLED
BY AN OLD
ENEMY.



WHO?

I WAS IN A
FOG...JUST
COMING OUT
OF TERMINAL'S
DRUG-INDUCED
COMA.

BUT I HEARD
HIS VOICE. HIS
LAUGHTER.

GOT A GOOD
LOOK AT HIM,
TOO.

IT WAS
THE JOKER.

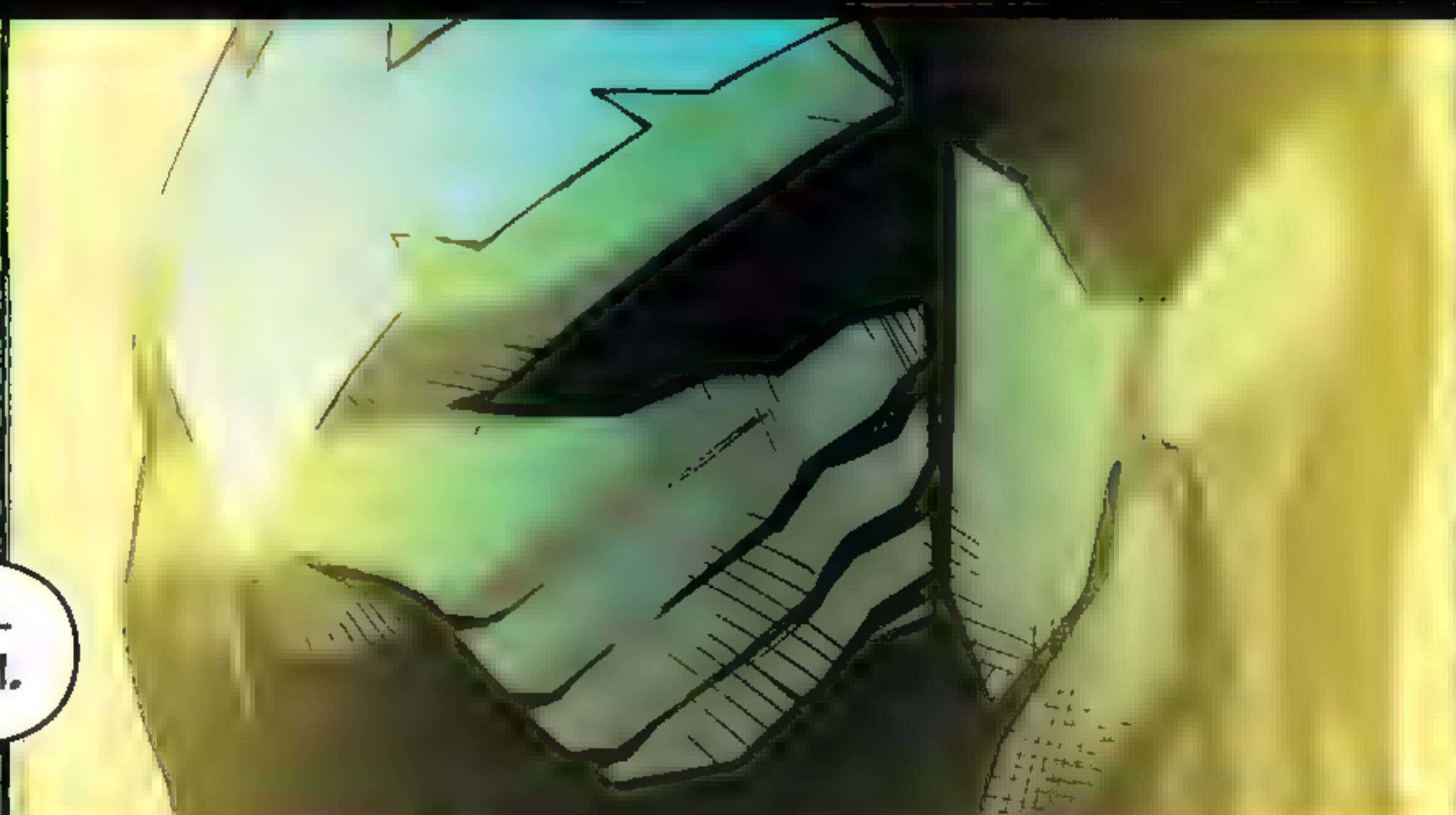


SO IT'S
TRUE?

YOU REALLY
USED TO BE
BATMAN?

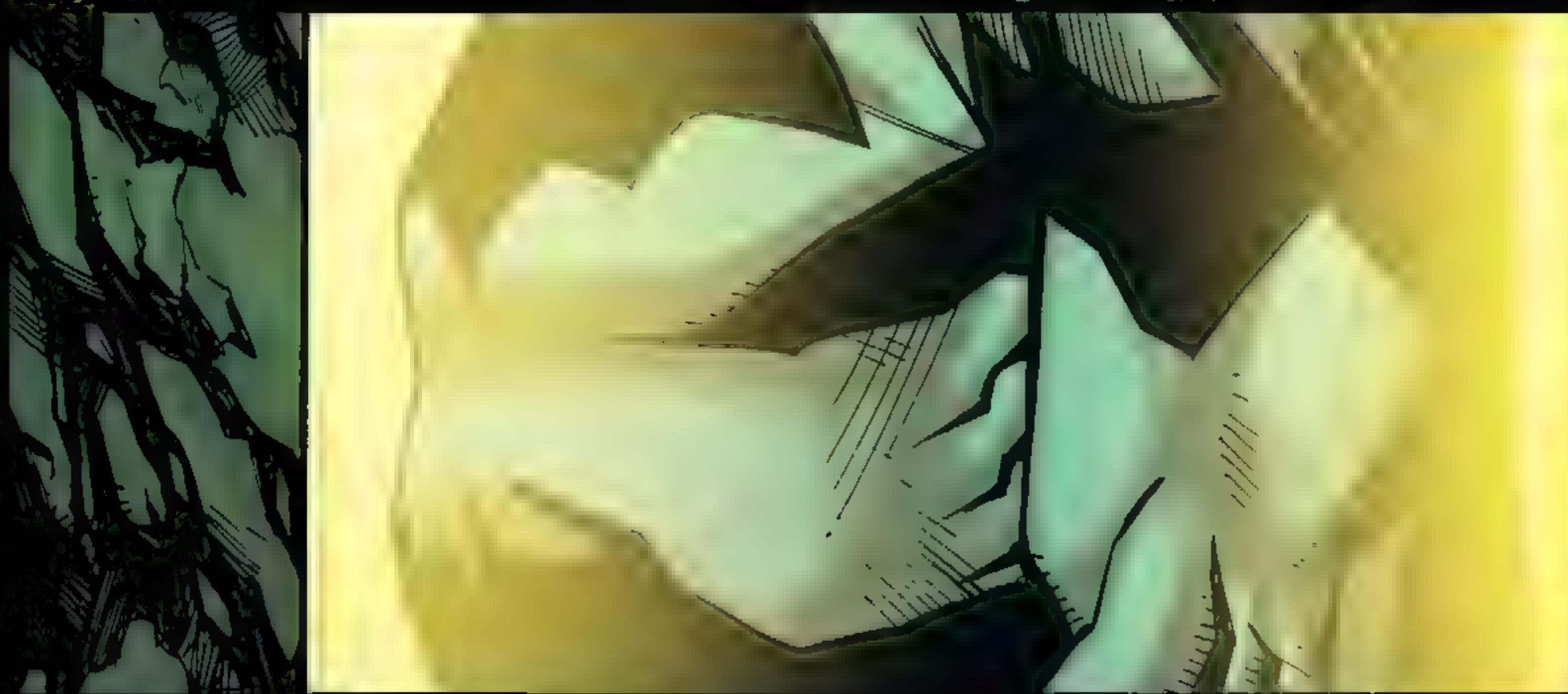
I MEAN,
IT'S KINDA
HARD TO
IMAGINE...

MM-
HMM.



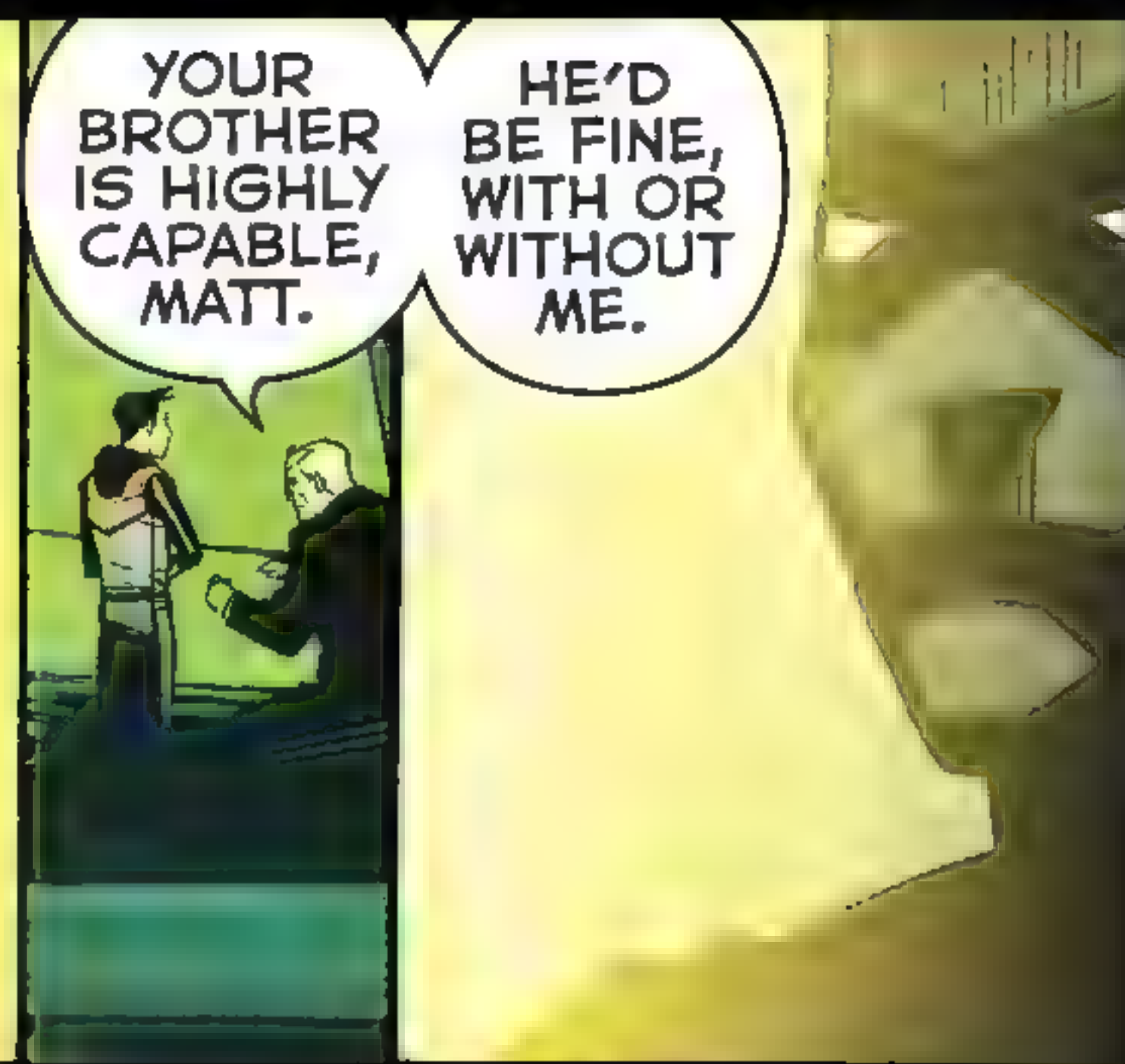
WELL,
IT'S GOOD
YOU'RE
BACK.

TERRY
WAS HAVIN'
KIND OF A TOUGH
TIME WITHOUT YOU
HERE TO GUIDE
HIM.



YOUR
BROTHER
IS HIGHLY
CAPABLE,
MATT.

HE'D
BE FINE,
WITH OR
WITHOUT
ME.





YEAH, BUT, LIKE WHEN HIS SUIT GOT SHREDDED, WE COULDN'T FIX IT.

WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND SOME OLD EXPERIMENTAL ONE HE COULD USE.

EXPER--?



DESCRIBE IT.

I CAN FIND THE FILE ON IT.

ALL'S I KNOW IS THAT IT WORKED GREAT.

WOULDN'TA KICKED DREG JOKERZ' BUTTS WITHOUT IT!



THAT'S THE ONE!

THE X-7.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HE WAS WEARING IT WHEN HE SAVED ME FROM FALLING TO MY DEATH.



I WAS TOO OUT OF IT TO FULLY COMPREHEND THAT FACT.



YOU SOUND KINDA WORRIED, MR. WAYNE.

WHY?



IT'S A PROTOTYPE, MATT.

ONE SO DANGEROUS TO ITS WEARER...

"...that it might get Terry killed."

NICE PLACE.

WHY DO YOU SOUND SO SURPRISED?

I MOVED ON WITH MY LIFE, TERRY.

SORRY. I KNOW THIS BATMAN THING HAS BEEN A LOT FOR YOU TO TAKE IN, BUT--

NOT ONLY WAS I SHOCKED TO FIND OUT YOU'RE ALIVE...

...IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE BATMAN.

DON'T TRY TO MINIMIZE MY FEELINGS WITH "BATMAN THING."

I'M SORRY, DANA.

I CAN'T SAY THAT ENOUGH.

NO, YOU CAN'T.

I THOUGHT WE WERE CLOSE.

YOUR UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES AND FLIMSY EXCUSES...

YOU WERE LYING TO ME ALL ALONG!

I...

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSE...

"...YET YOU NEVER MENTIONED THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE.

"THAT YOU'RE BATMAN!"

I CAN SUMMON HIM, CURARÉ, BUT BEFORE I DO...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME WHY.

WE DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS.

WE'VE ONLY MET ONCE.

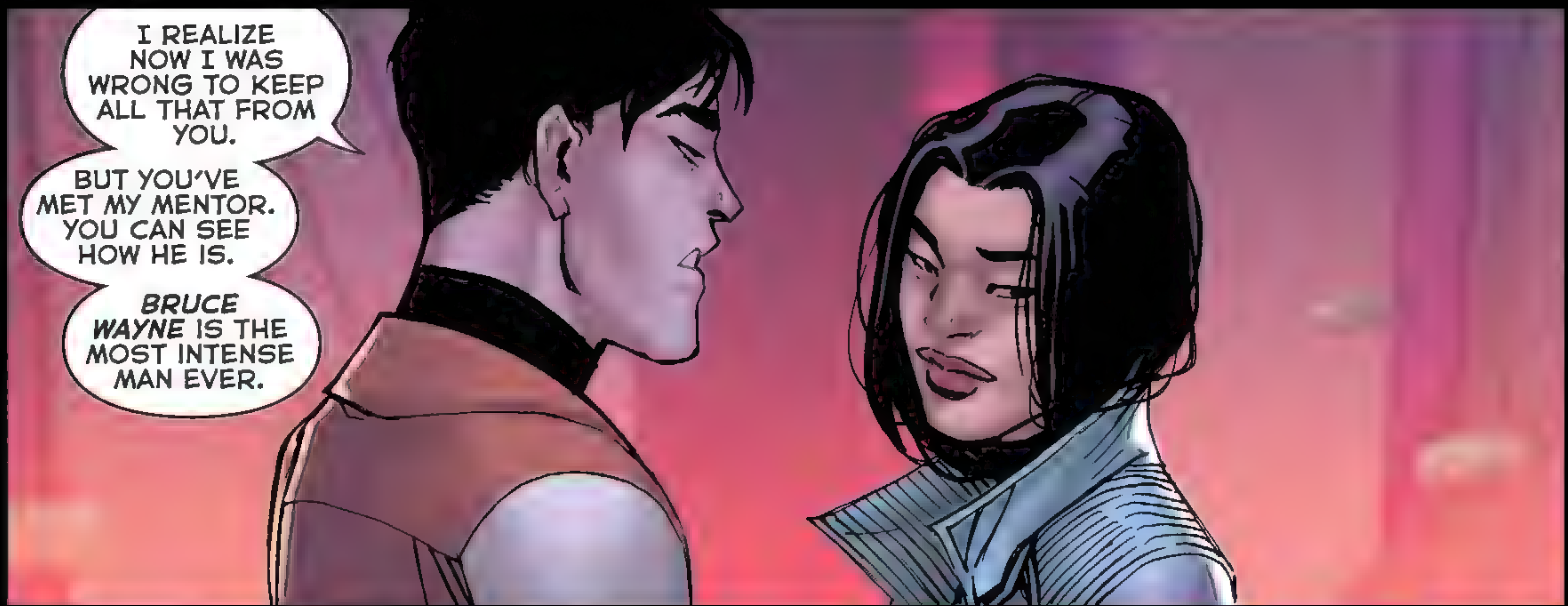
YEARS AGO.

I NEED MORE.

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT.

DEATH HAS COME.

YOUR DEATH.



I REALIZE
NOW I WAS
WRONG TO KEEP
ALL THAT FROM
YOU.

BUT YOU'VE
MET MY MENTOR.
YOU CAN SEE
HOW HE IS.

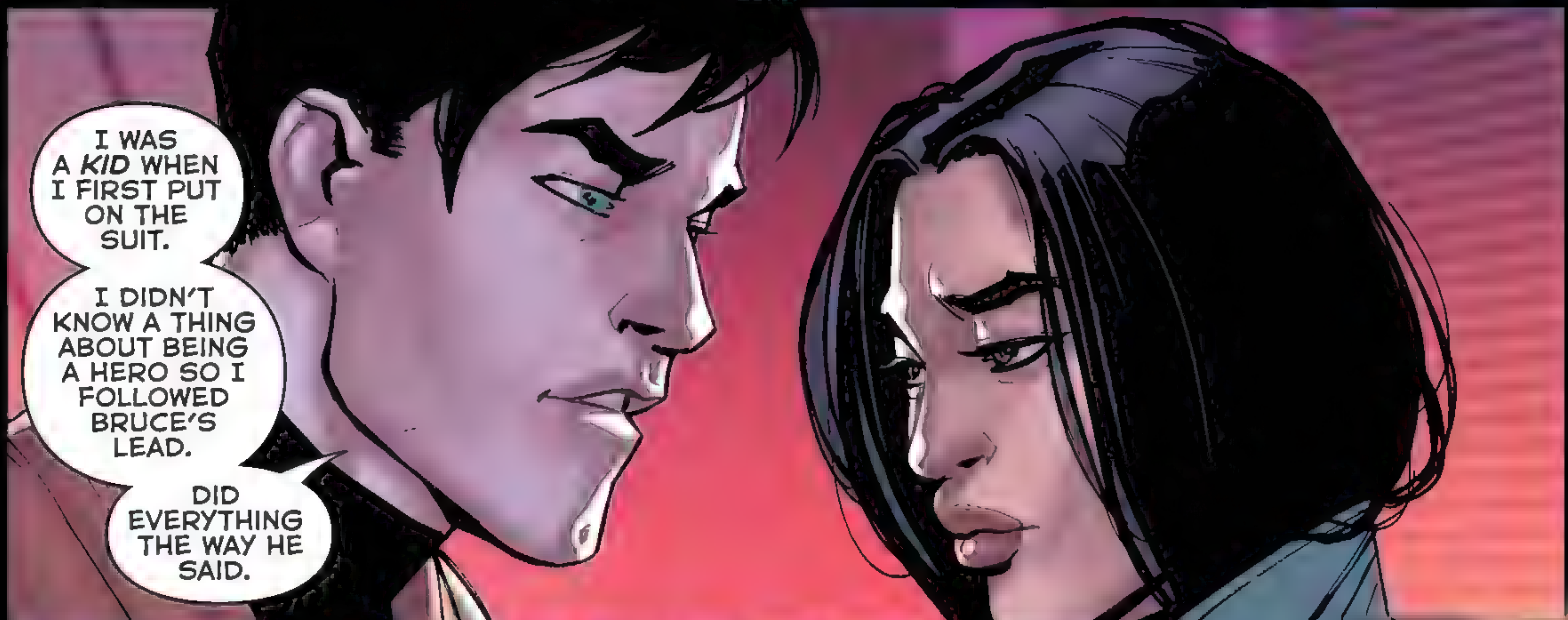
BRUCE
WAYNE IS THE
MOST INTENSE
MAN EVER.



To him, being
Batman was a
holy mission.

"Nothing else
mattered."

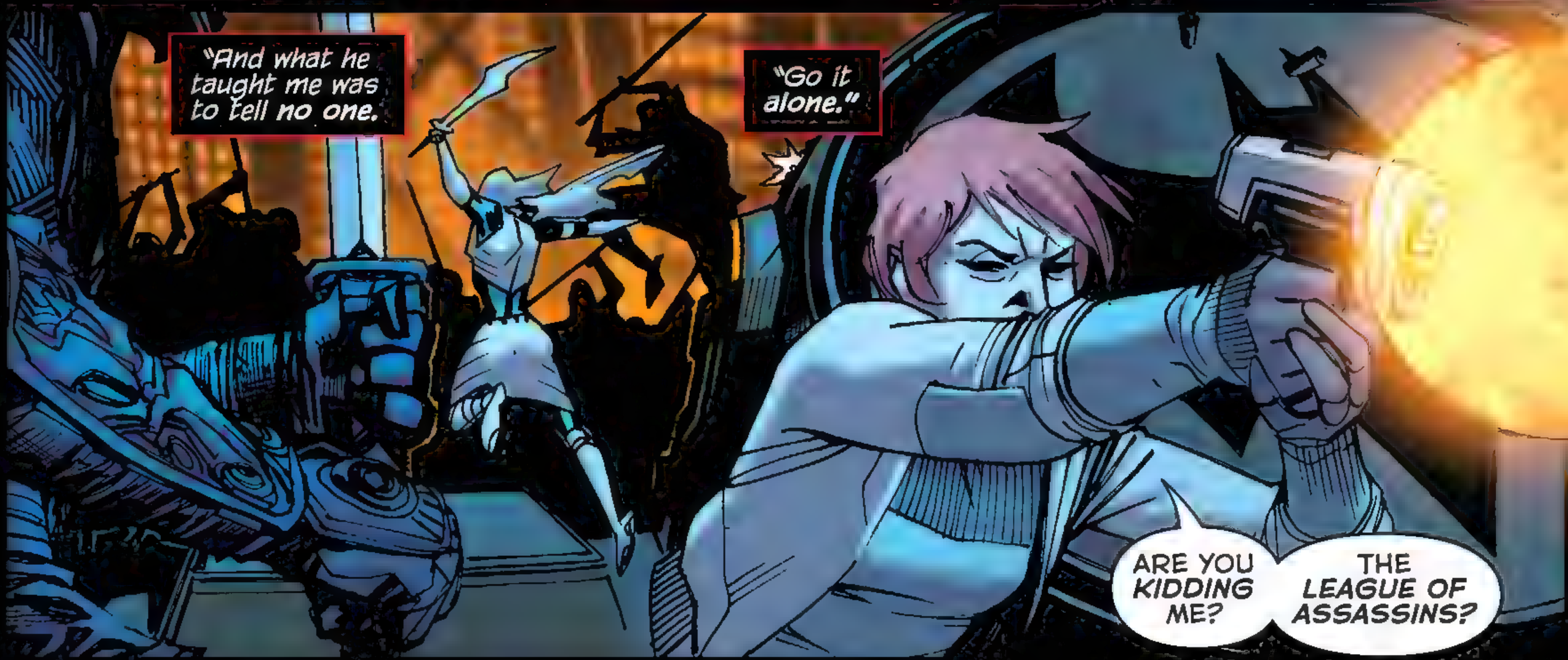
"And that's how
he coached me."



I WAS
A KID WHEN
I FIRST PUT
ON THE
SUIT.

I DIDN'T
KNOW A THING
ABOUT BEING
A HERO SO I
FOLLOWED
BRUCE'S
LEAD.

DID
EVERYTHING
THE WAY HE
SAID.



"And what he
taught me was
to tell no one."

"Go it
alone."

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

THE
LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS?



HERE TO PREVENT ME FROM FULFILLING MY MISSION.

"So I did it Bruce's way."

"Didn't tell you, Matt, my mom..."

"... anyone!"

CARRYING ON TWO LIVES IS A LONELY WAY TO LIVE, DANA.

THE CONSTANT LYING REALLY GOT TO ME.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME.

I COULD HAVE HELPED!



"YOU CAN'T BLAME WAYNE, TERRY.

"I THINK MAYBE YOU *LIKED* BEING BATMAN.

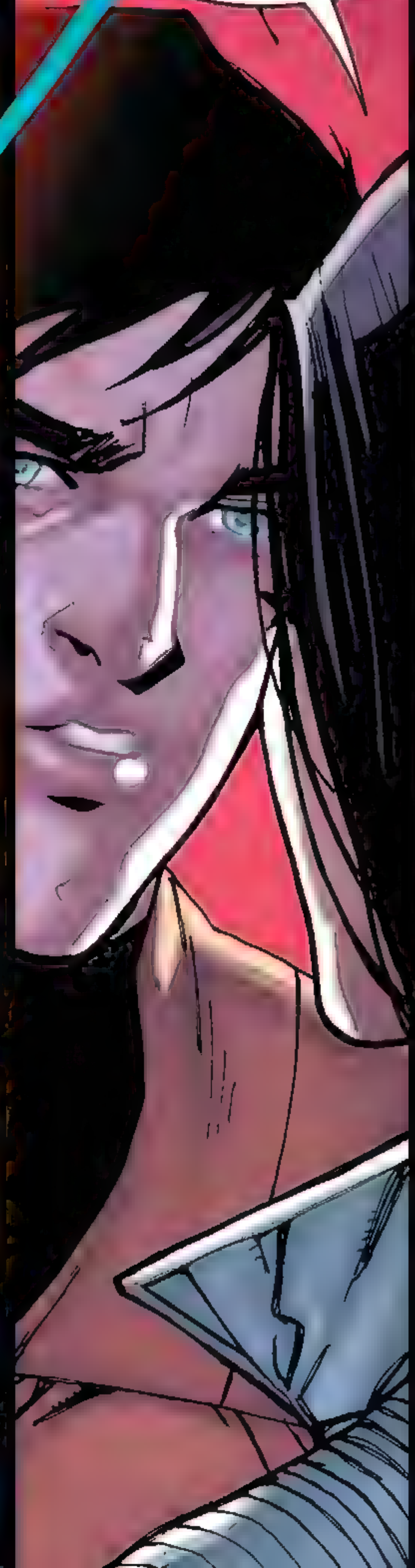
"...MORE THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO ADMIT NOW.

I COULD SEE IT WHEN YOU WERE MASQUERADING AS ONE OF THE JOKERZ.

YOU LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

I--

YOU ENJOY BEING BATMAN.





"MORE THAN
WANTING TO BE
BATMAN..."

"IN FACT,
IT'S MORE
THAN THAT,
TERRY."

...IT'S
WHAT AND
WHO YOU
ARE!



I GUESS...
MAYBE THAT'S
TRUE.

BUT
I CAN'T DO
IT BRUCE'S
WAY.



"I lost so
much time when
Spellbinder was
in control of
my mind..."

"...brainwashed
me into living
another man's
life."

NEED...
REINFORCEMENTS...



WHEN MOM
DIED IN THE WAR,
I WASN'T HERE TO
SAVE HER...OR EVEN
SAY GOOD-BYE.

MATT
WAS LEFT ALL
ALONE, WITH NO
FAMILY TO TAKE
HIM IN.



*That'll
haunt me
for the
rest of
my life.*

*"So much so, that
I sometimes wonder
if it's worth it."*



THAT DEPENDS
ON WHAT YOU WANT
OUT OF LIFE,
TERRY.

WHY
ARE WE
HERE?

WHAT
DO YOU
EXPECT
OF ME?

IT'S WHAT
I EXPECT
OF ME THAT'S
IMPORTANT,
DANA.



*"I've been worn
down by bouncing
from one crisis
to the next."*



EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUNG, I'VE LOST A LOT.

MISSED MAKING THE CONNECTIONS THAT HUMAN BEINGS NEED TO MAKE TO BE HAPPY.

SEEING BRUCE--OLD, ALONE AND BITTER--WITH A PAST OF BEING BATMAN AND NOT MUCH ELSE...

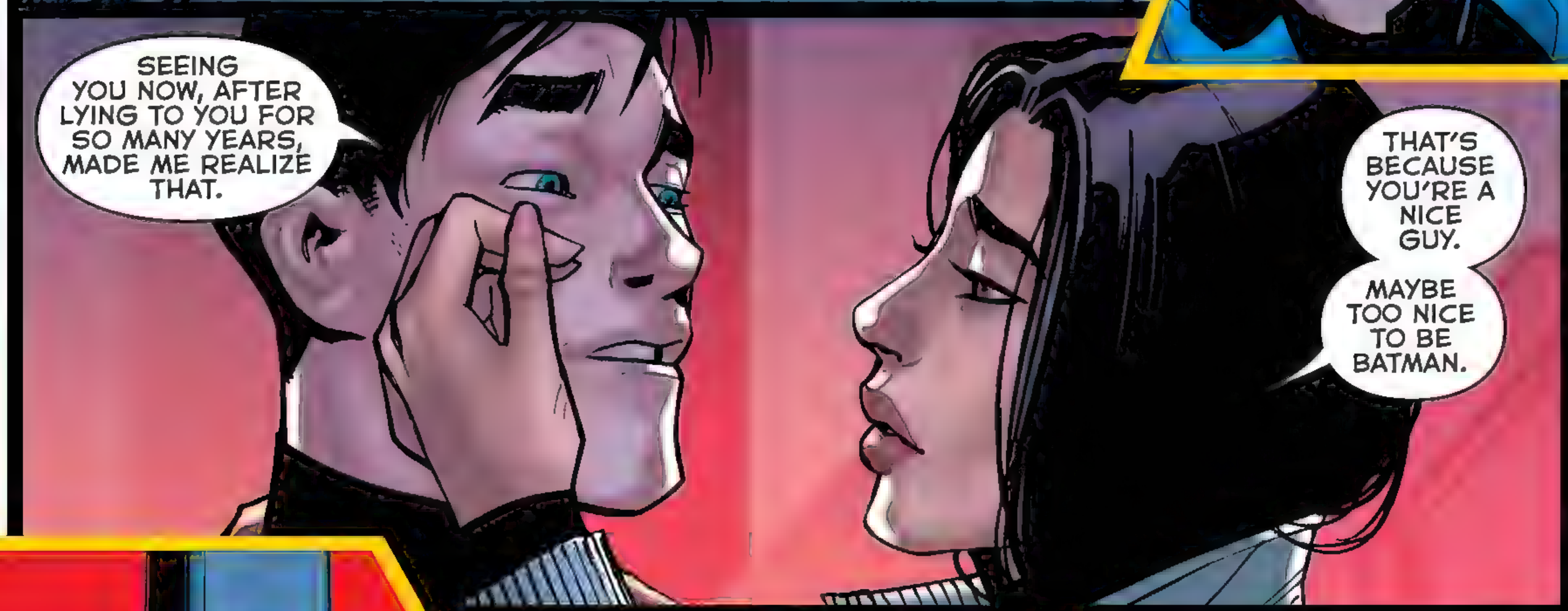
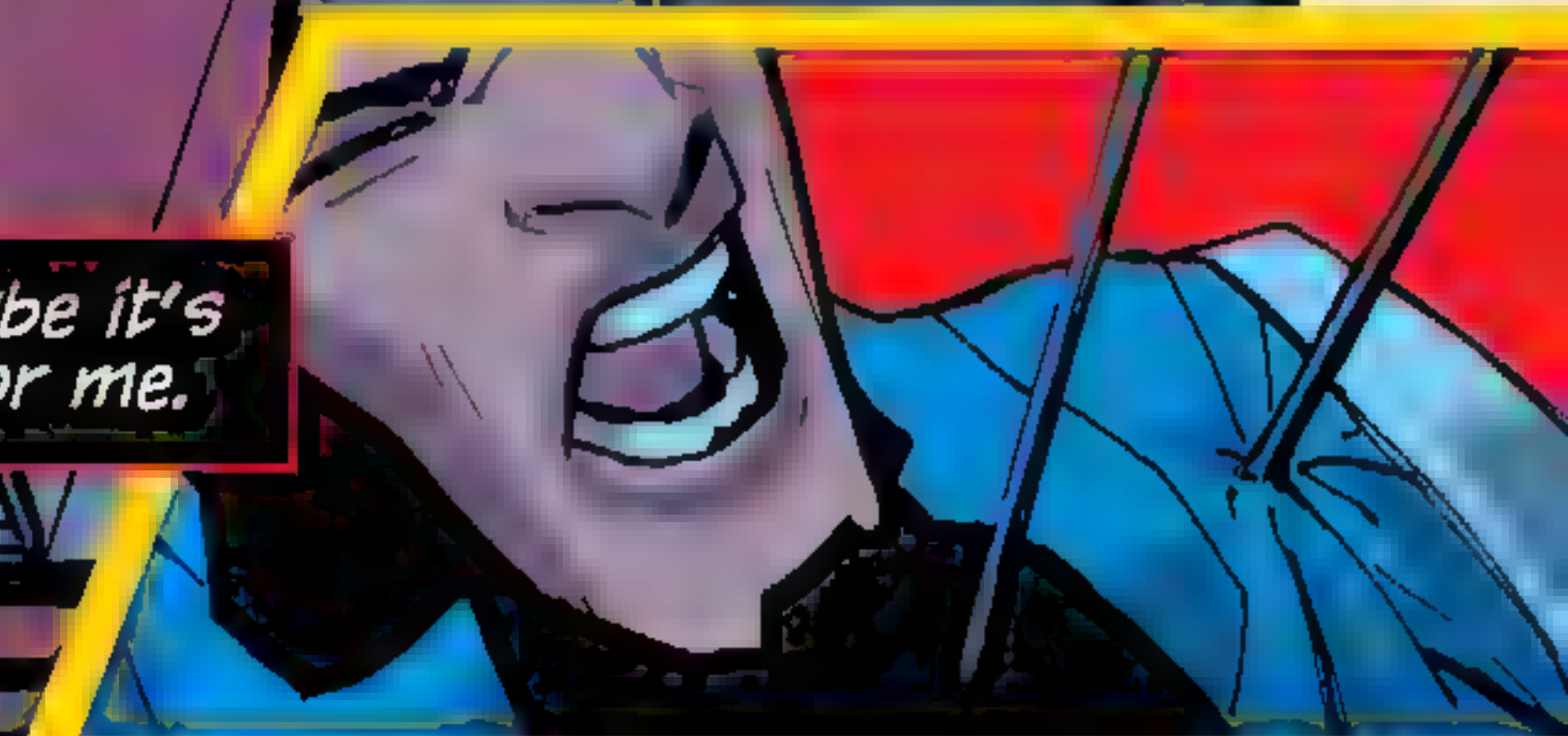
...I DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT.



"If being Batman means I can't have a personal life..."



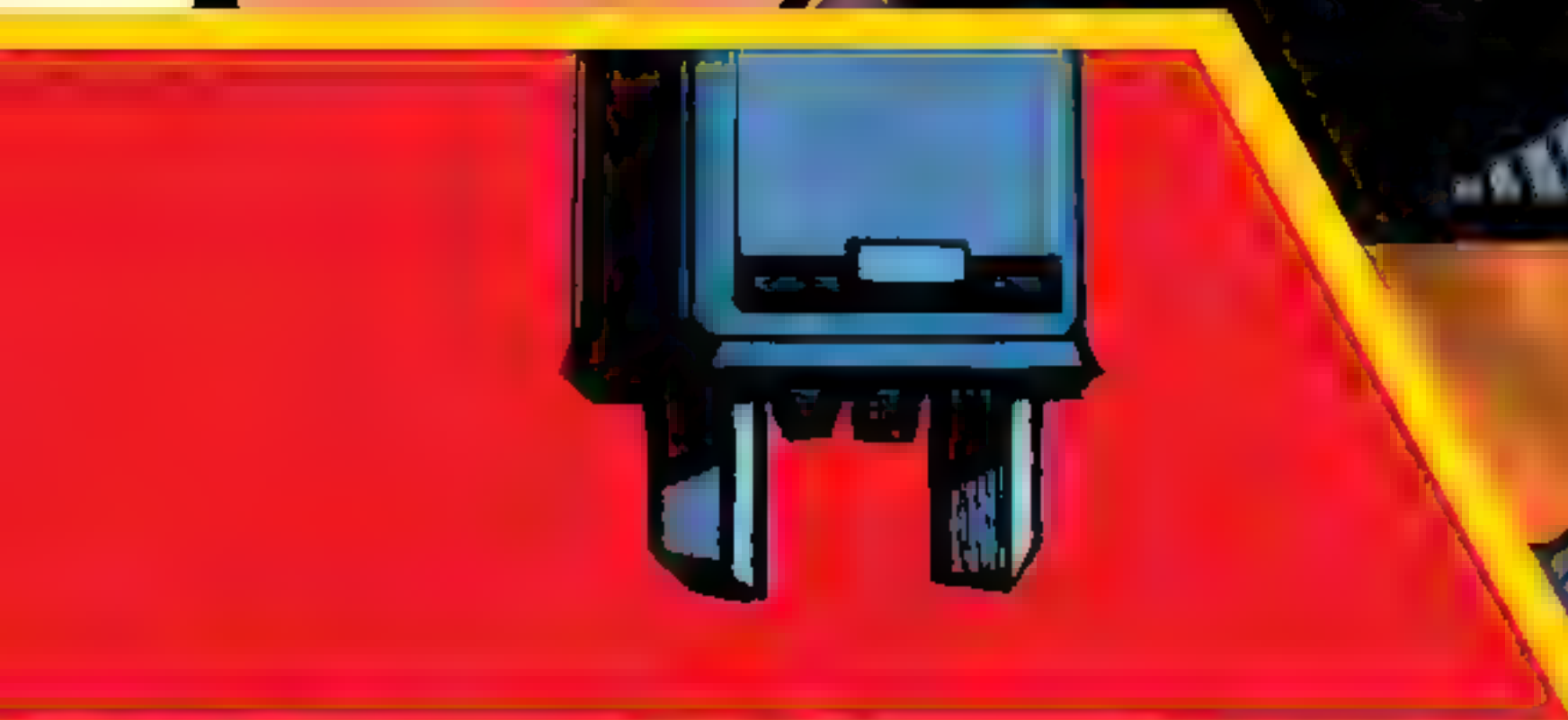
"...maybe it's not for me."



SEEING YOU NOW, AFTER LYING TO YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS, MADE ME REALIZE THAT.

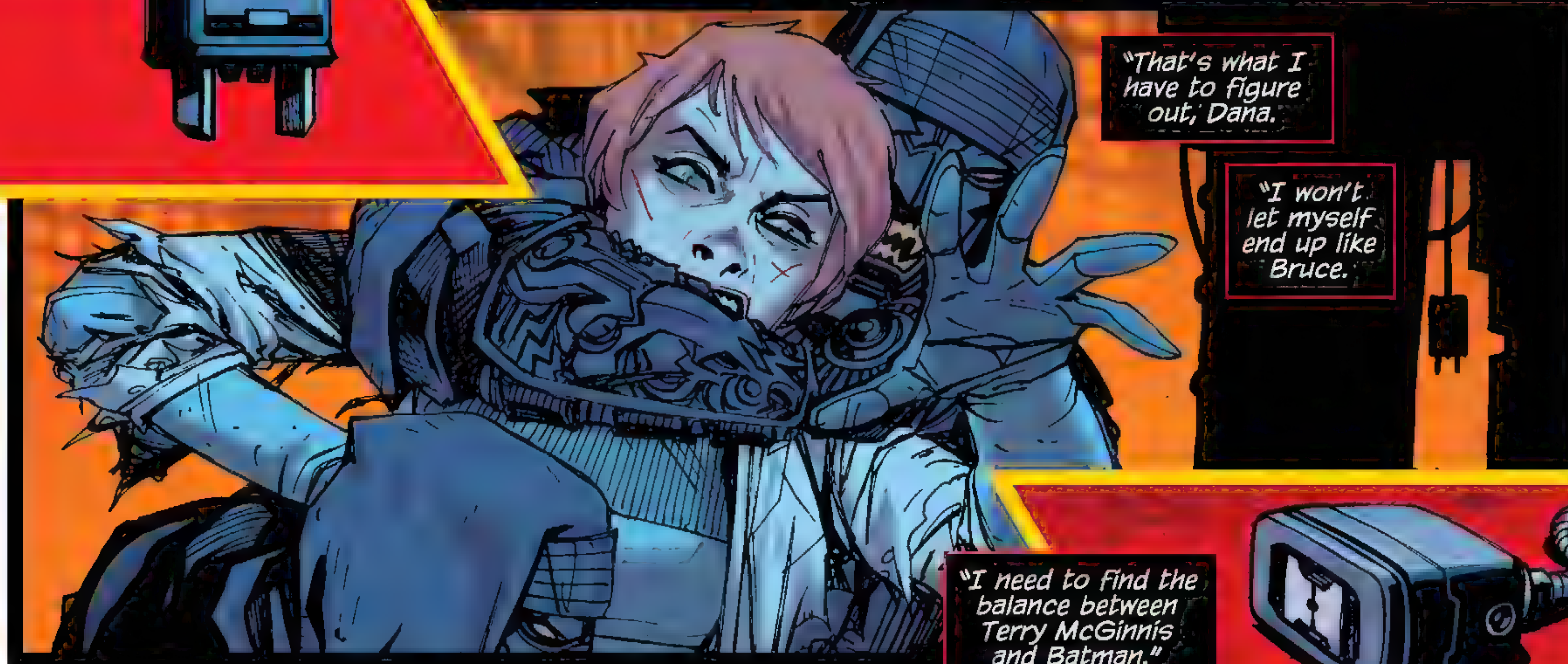
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A NICE GUY.

MAYBE TOO NICE TO BE BATMAN.



"That's what I have to figure out," Dana.

"I won't let myself end up like Bruce."



"I need to find the balance between Terry McGinnis and Batman."





RIGHT NOW,
I'LL PUT ME
FIRST.

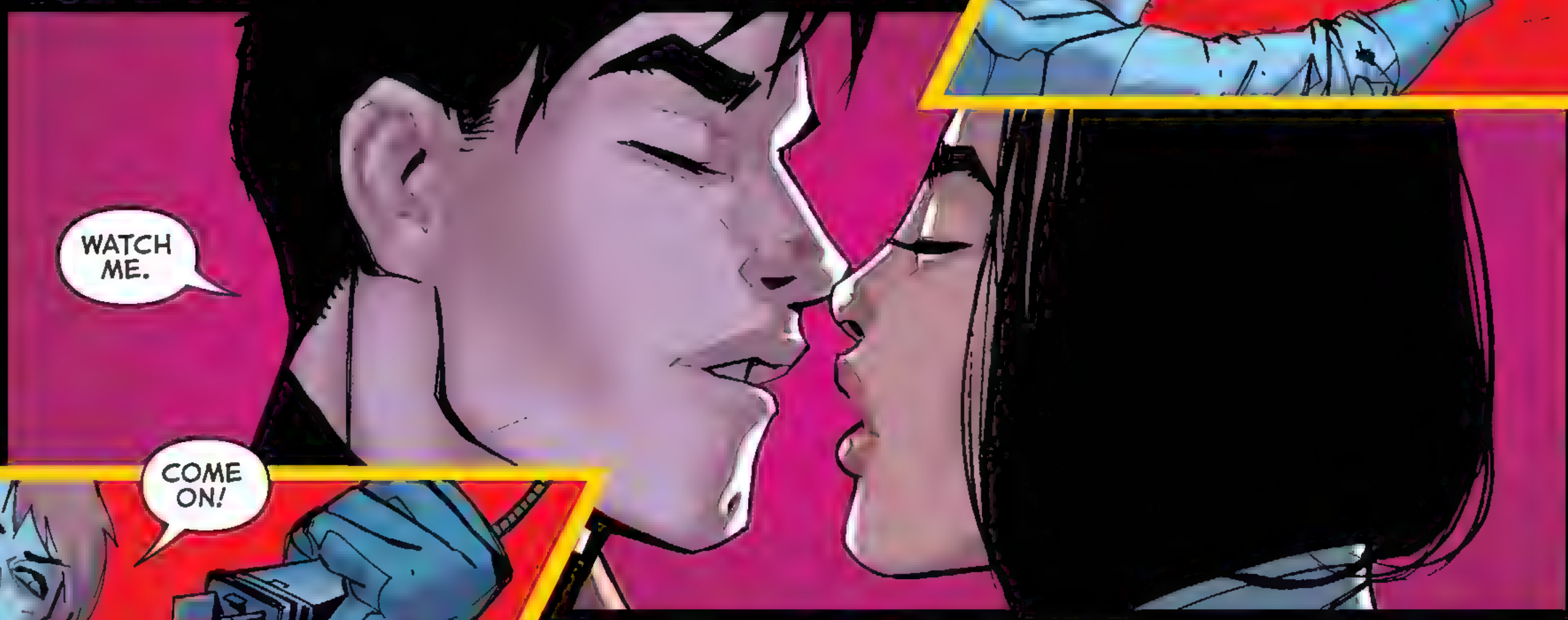
BATMAN
SECOND.

AND HOPE
THAT, AT THE
END, I CAN FIND
A WAY TO MAKE
BOTH WORK.

YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU CAN GIVE
YOURSELF A
FAIR SHOT?

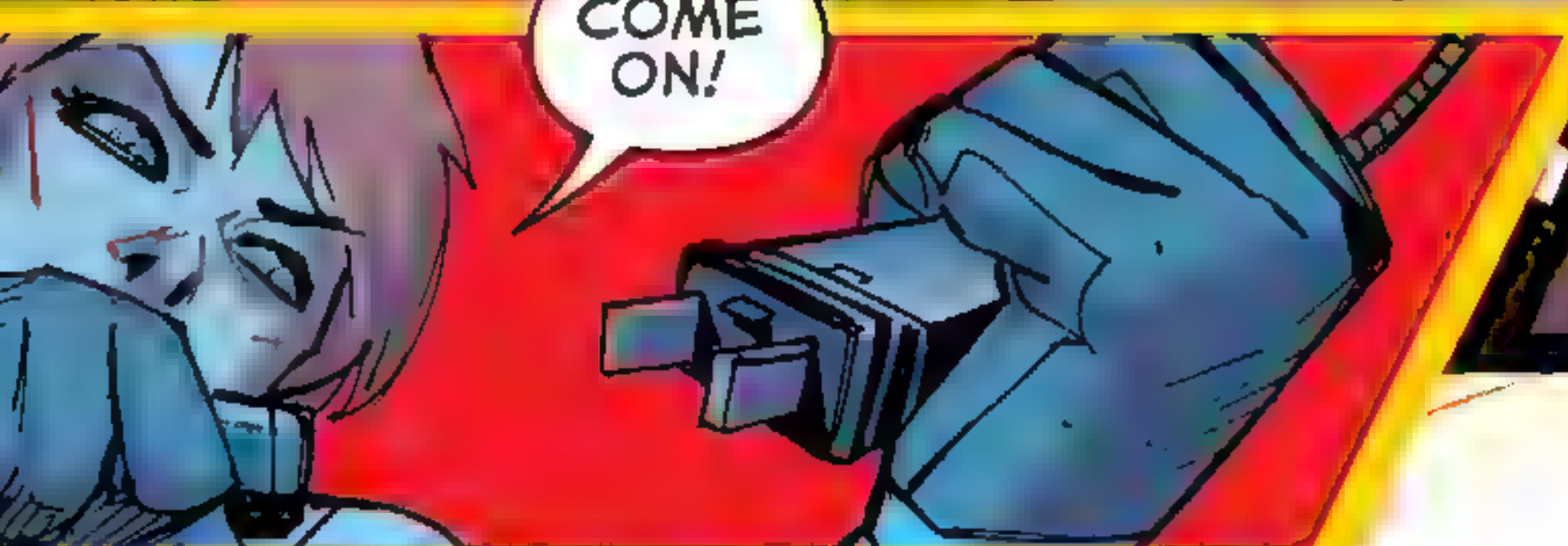


Yeah.



WATCH
ME.

COME
ON!





NO.

CLASSIC
TIMING.



LOOKS
LIKE YOU
HAVE TO
GO.

NO.
NO, I
DON'T.



NOT THIS
TIME.

I'M WILLING
TO SACRIFICE...
DO WHAT I CAN,
WHEN I CAN...

...BUT
I CAN'T TOTALLY
LOSE MYSELF IN
BATMAN.

BESIDES...



how bad
can it be?





One look and
I feel guilty.

Somehow, I've
made it to an
age my lifestyle
should have
denied me.

An age the two
of you should
have reached...

...with a lifetime
of accomplishment
and happiness in
your wake.



Accomplishments?

Done.

Happiness?



Not in the cards.

Vanished the night I lost you.

Tragedy sent me in another direction.

As a doctor, you cared for Gotham's sick.

I went after the city's cancerous element.

Alone at first. Help came later.

Jason.

Tim.

Of course, Damian.

For a while, Duke...

...but most of all, Damian, your grandson.

I wish he could have known you.

Things might have turned out better between us.

Dick.

Any plan for a successor had dissipated years earlier.

Batman was done.

Or so I thought.

Until the night Terry McGinnis walked in and--

So I went back to working alone.

Until the most human condition of all stopped me.

Old age.

ARE YOU OKAY, MR. WAYNE?

RISE OF THE DEMON PART 2

DAN
JURGENS
WRITER

BERNARD
CHANG
ART

MARCELO
MAIOLO
COLOR

LOST
IN THE
PAST.

HAPPENS
TO MEN MY
AGE.

I PREFER
TO THINK OF IT
AS MEN OF YOUR
VINTAGE.

HMPH.

TRAVIS LANHAM: LETTERS CHANG & MAIOLO: COVER
ROB LEVIN: ASST. EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR

I'M SURE
THAT RETURNING
AFTER BEING GONE
SO LONG IS TOUGH,
BUT--

I WASN'T
ON VACATION,
MAX.

TERMINAL
PUT ME IN
AN INDUCED
COMA...

...AND
MADE ME HIS
PRISONER.

I CAN'T BEGIN TO
IMAGINE HOW AWFUL
THAT WAS.

BUT YOU'RE
BACK AND
TERRY--ALL
OF US, IN
FACT--ARE
THRILLED.

I HOPE
THAT'S
TRUE.

I WAS
HARD ON
HIM.

TOO
HARD, AT
TIMES.



TERRY MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
FRUSTRATED...

...BUT HE
ALWAYS KNEW
YOU WERE BEING
HARD ON HIM FOR
A REASON.

TO KEEP
HIM FROM
GETTING
HURT.



MAKE HIM
STRONG.

EFFECTIVE.

WANTED
HIM TO FEEL
DRIVEN.



I KNOW NOW I
COULD HAVE BEEN
MORE PATIENT.
MORE...

UNDERSTANDING?

MAYBE
LISTENED
A LITTLE
BETTER?

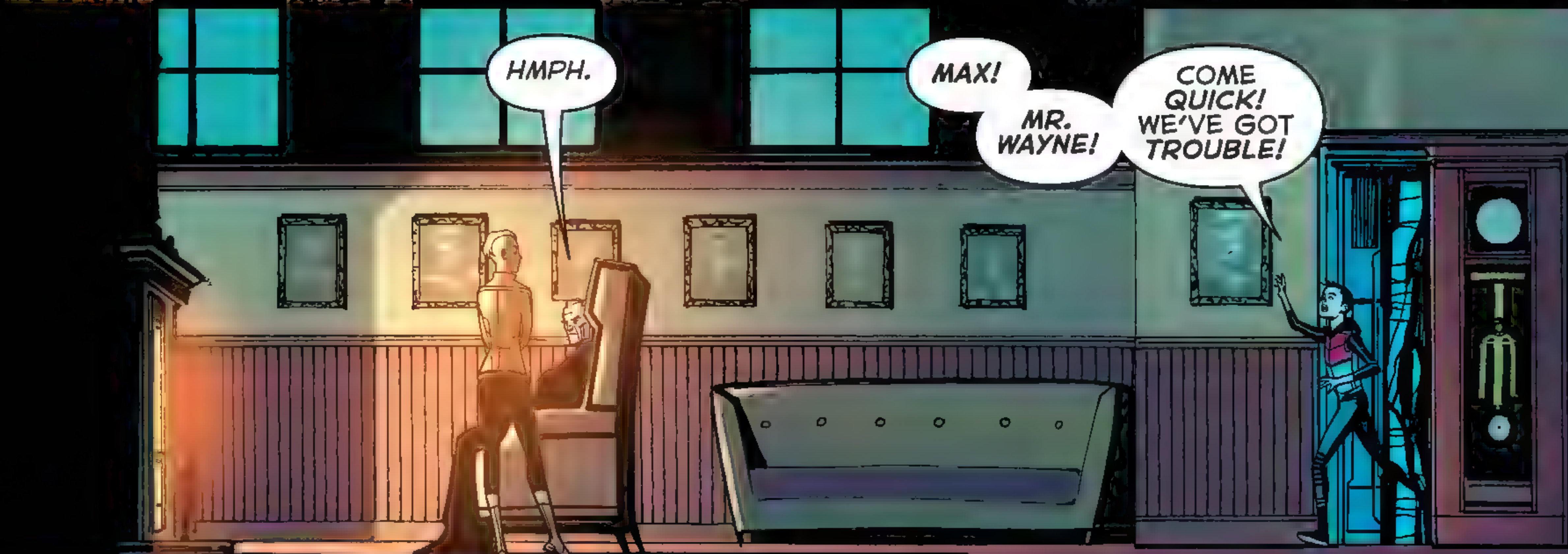


YES.

ESPECIALLY
SINCE HIS OWN
FATHER HAD BEEN
MURDERED.

I TREATED
HIM AS IF HE
WERE A YOUNG
VERSION OF ME.
HE WASN'T.

IF YOU HAVE
ANY REGRETS,
NOW IS THE TIME
TO ADDRESS
THEM.

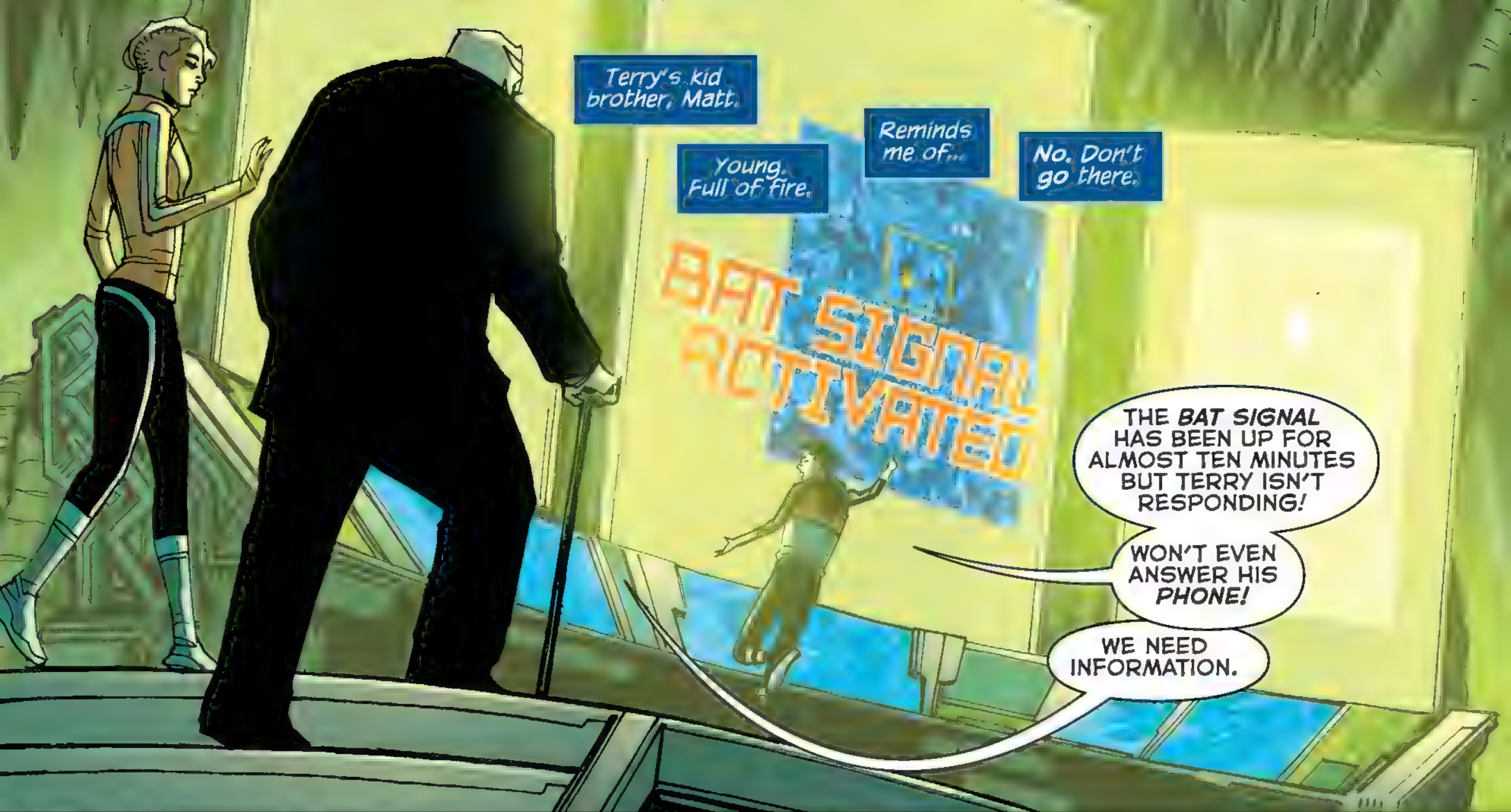


HMPH.

MAX!

MR.
WAYNE!

COME
QUICK!
WE'VE GOT
TROUBLE!



Terry's kid brother, Matt.

Young. Full of fire.

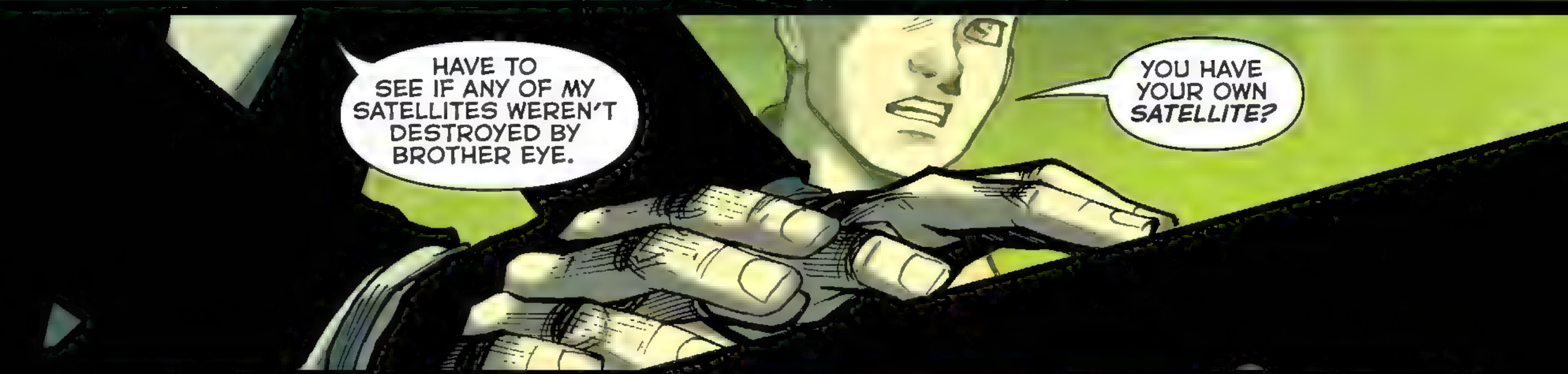
Reminds me of...

No. Don't go there.

THE BAT SIGNAL HAS BEEN UP FOR ALMOST TEN MINUTES BUT TERRY ISN'T RESPONDING!

WON'T EVEN ANSWER HIS PHONE!

WE NEED INFORMATION.



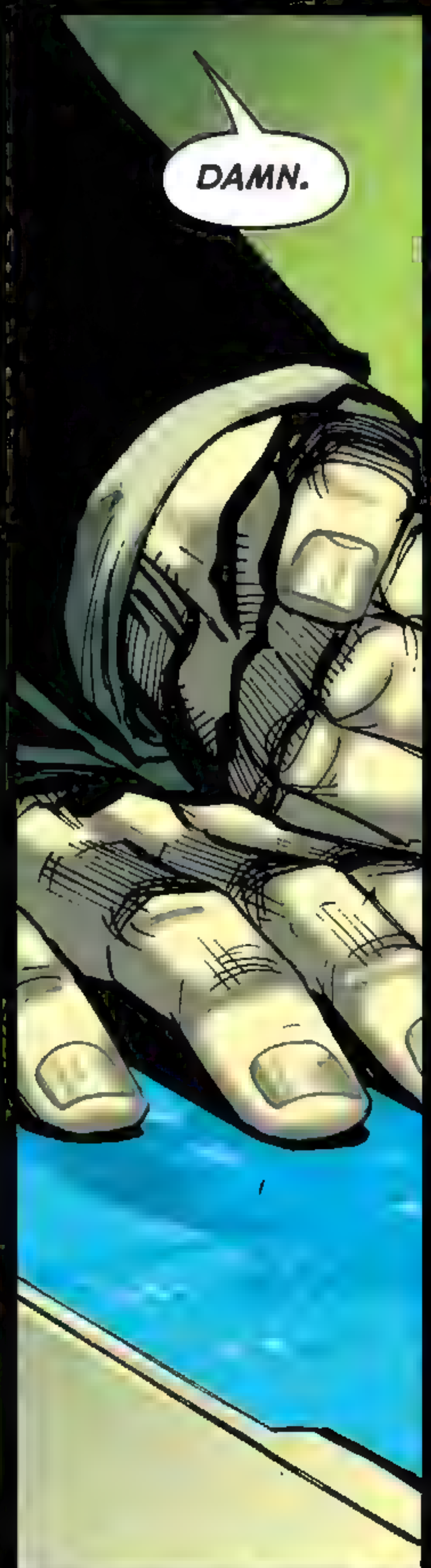
HAVE TO SEE IF ANY OF MY SATELLITES WEREN'T DESTROYED BY BROTHER EYE.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SATELLITE?



LOOKS LIKE A COUPLE MANAGED TO SURVIVE--THERE.

COMING INTO FOCUS NOW AND...



DAMN.

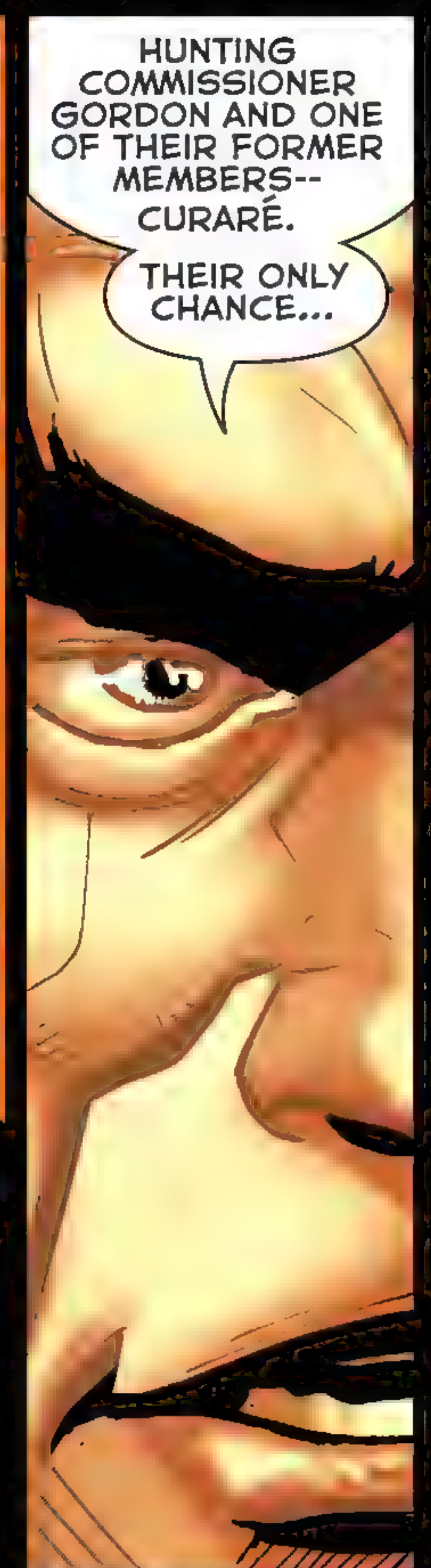


POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

UNDER ATTACK FROM AN ARMY?

WORSE.

THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS.



HUNTING COMMISSIONER GORDON AND ONE OF THEIR FORMER MEMBERS-- CURARÉ.

THEIR ONLY CHANCE...

YOU SHOULD GO, TERRY.

IT MIGHT BE SERIOUS. A TRUE EMERGENCY.

GOTHAM IS A BIG CITY, DANA.

HAS AN EMERGENCY ALMOST EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY MORE THAN A LOST KITTEN.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I'VE TOLD YOU--I DON'T WANT TO END UP BITTER AND ALONE LIKE BRUCE.

I CAN BE BATMAN.

NOT 24/7 THOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW THAT HEROES GET TO PICK AND CHOOSE THEIR MOMENTS.

THE NEED DEFINES THE RESPONSE.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...

...I'VE ALREADY LOST SO MUCH.

FOR THE MOMENT, I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO BE TERRY MCGINNIS.

IS SOME PORTION OF A NORMAL LIFE REALLY SO MUCH TO ASK?

IF SO, AND I HAVE TO BE BATMAN AND NOTHING MORE...

...I'M AFRAID I'LL GO NUTS.

YOU
DEFEND THE
TRAITOR.

FOR THAT,
YOU DIE.

YEAH?
IF SO...

YOU TALK
TOO MUCH,
GORDON.

...YOU'LL
HAVE TO
DO BETTER
THAN THAT,
DREK.

K
R
K

THEY
DON'T--
UGH!

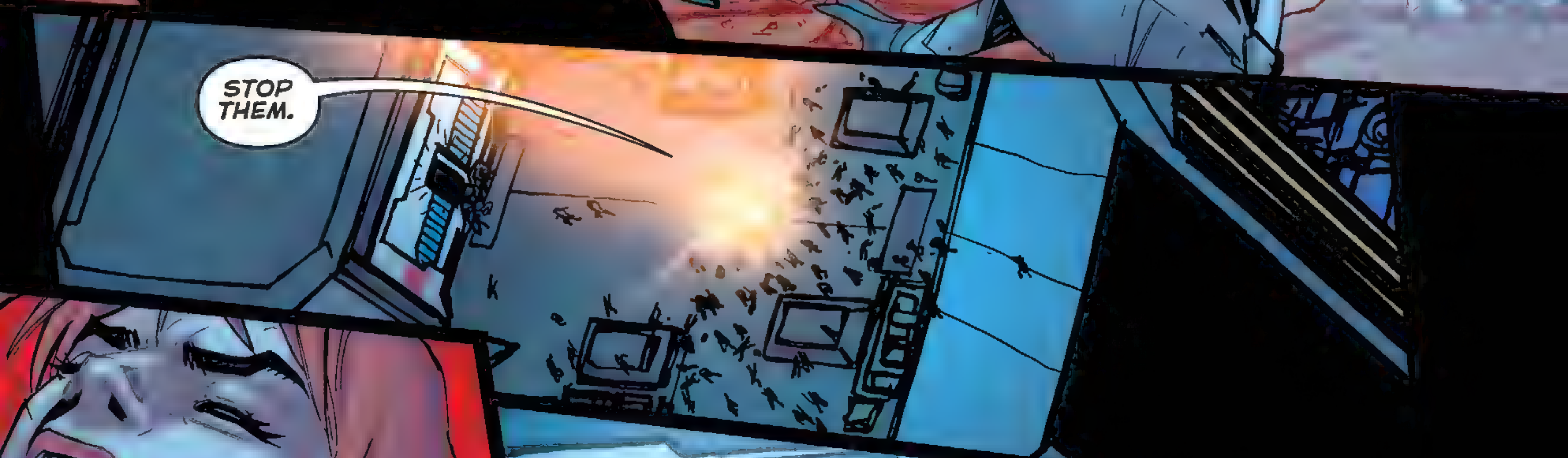
LISTEN?

PLITCH

BET
THEY'LL HEAR
THIS.

CHAKK
CHAK







LOOK.

THEY SHUT
THE SIGNAL
OFF.

COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN TOO
IMPORTANT.



THIS
TIME,
MAYBE.

ONE DAY
THOUGH,
IGNORING
A CALL FOR
HELP WON'T
END WELL.



IT
SEEMS
TO ME
THAT--

WHO
WOULD BE
CALLING ME AT
THIS TIME OF
NIGHT?



...



IT'S FOR
YOU.

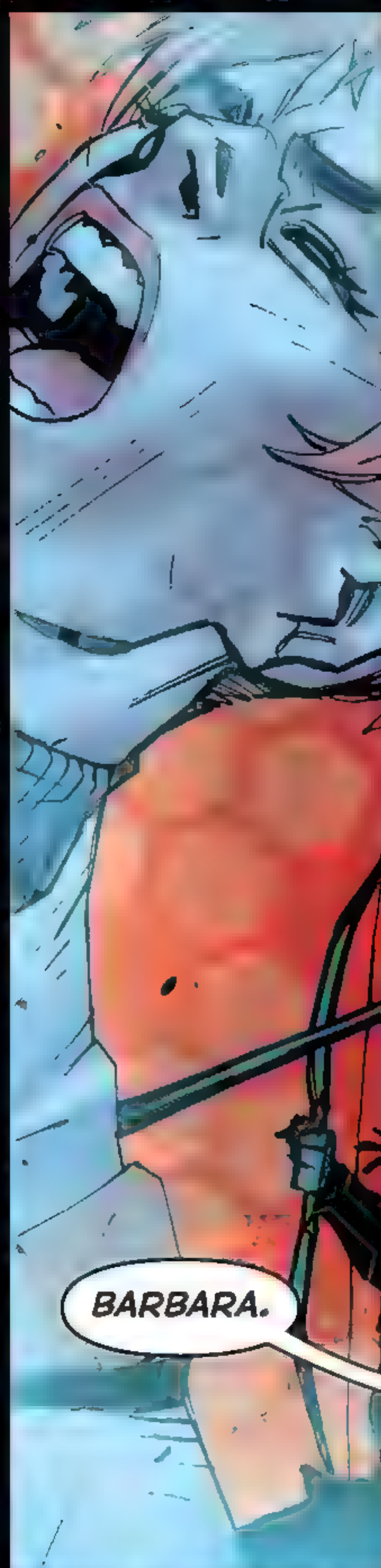
REALLY?

BRUCE
NEEDS TO
KNOW WHEN
TO BACK
OFF.

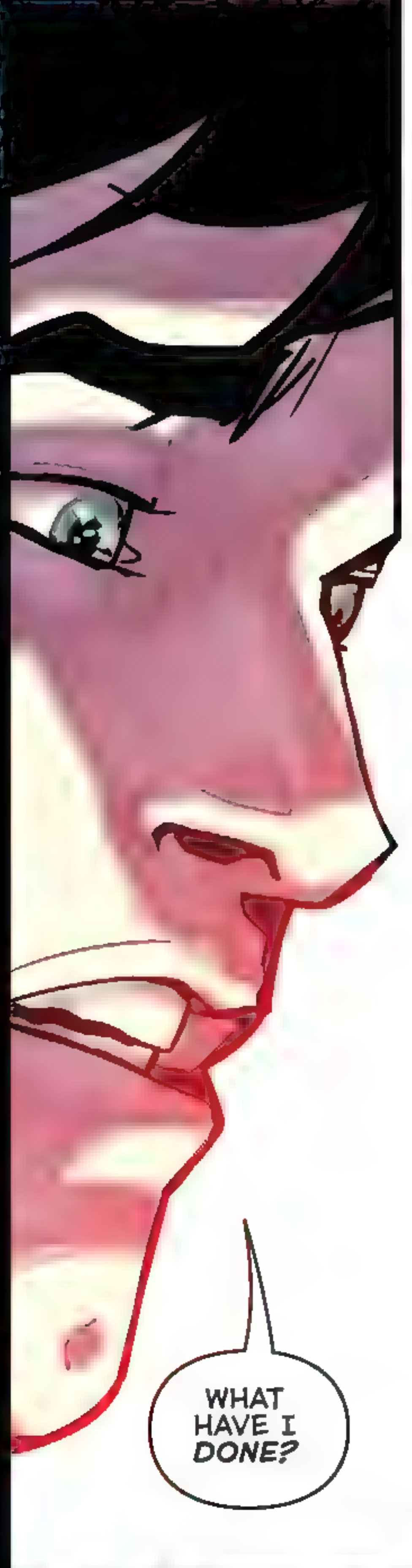


TERRY,
YOU NEED
TO SEE
THIS.

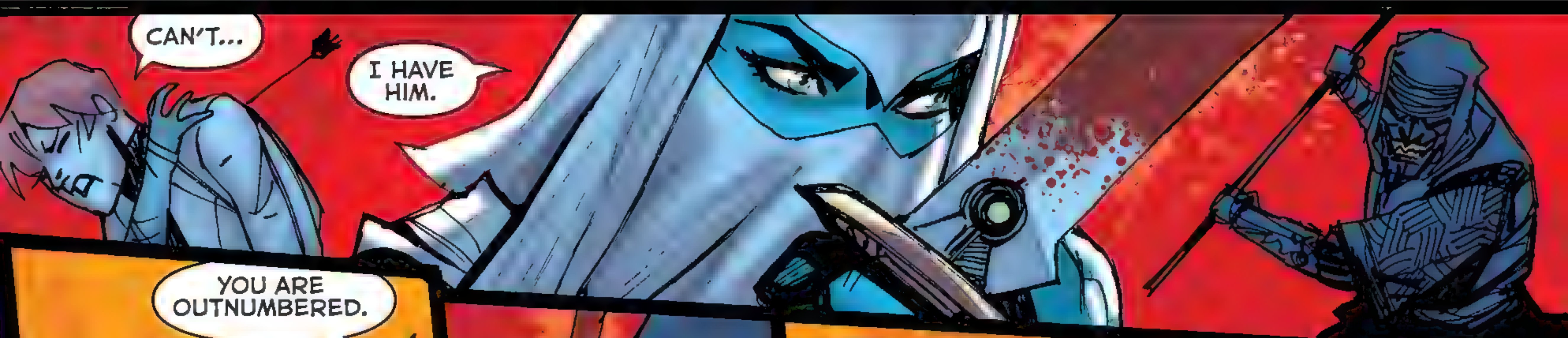
CURARÉ.
AND--



BARBARA.



WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?



CAN'T...

I HAVE HIM.

YOU ARE OUTNUMBERED.

NOW...

WITHOUT HOPE.

PRANNG

TRANG

CHRT

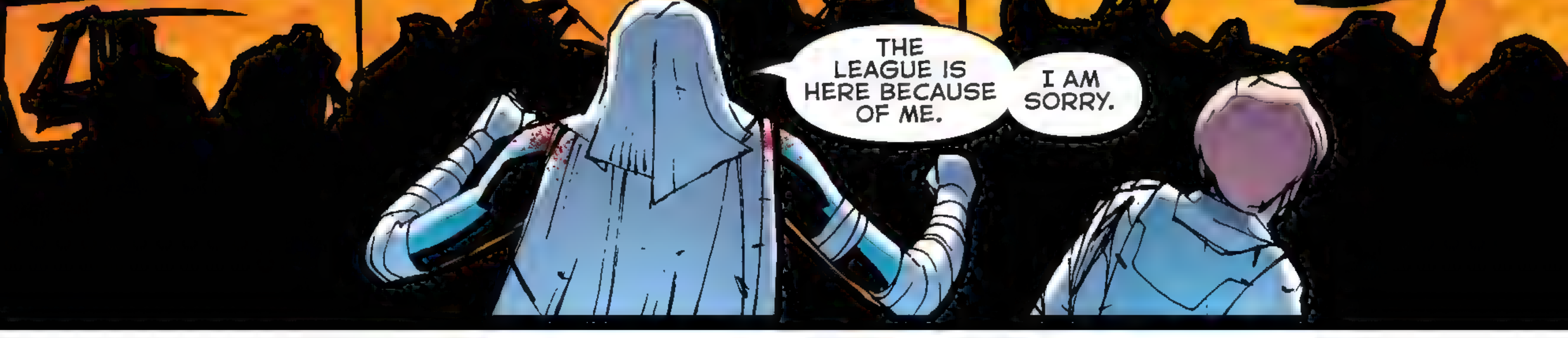


NGH!

PRITTTCH



NEVER.



THE LEAGUE IS HERE BECAUSE OF ME.

I AM SORRY.



THAT
MAKES
TWO OF
US.

GUHH!

BATMAN.





AW.

SKY BRIDGE STOPPED YOUR FALL.

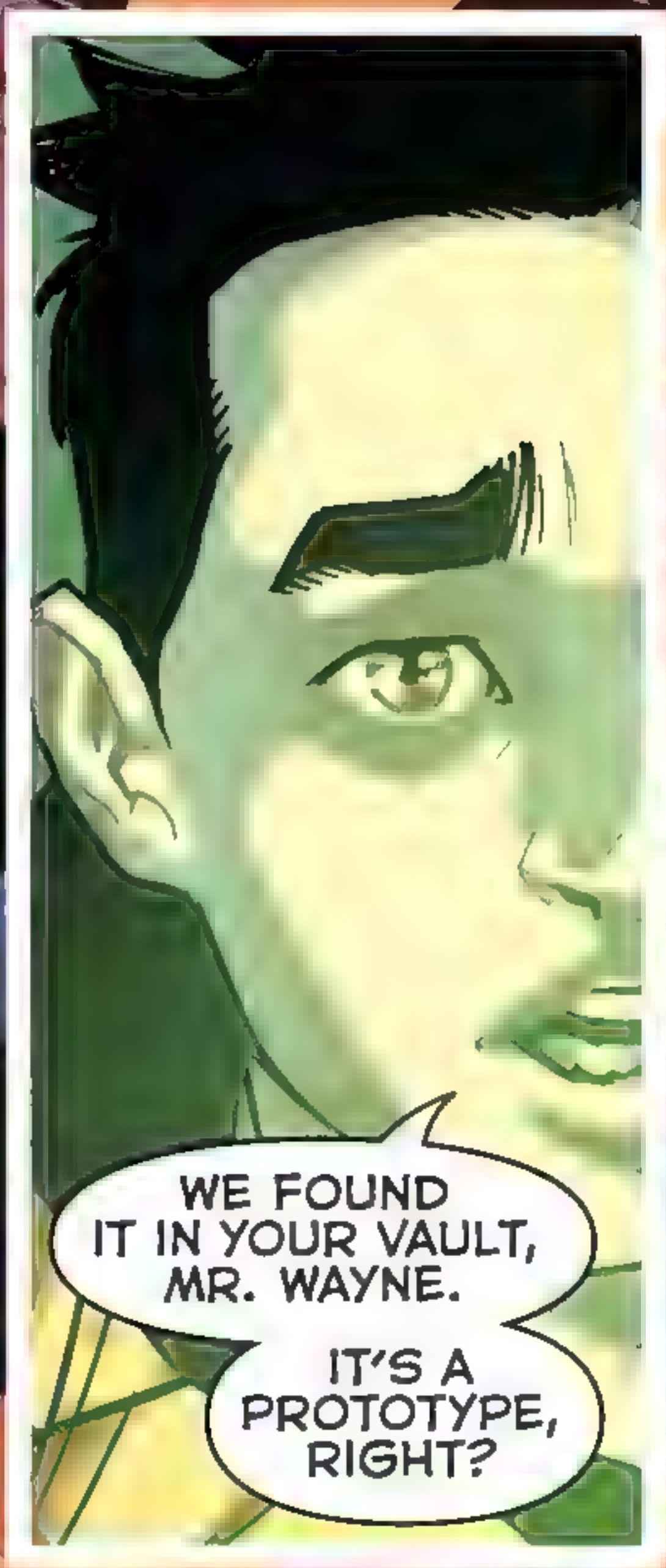
CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL.



THAT SUIT. WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

SURROUND HIM.

HE CANNOT TAKE US ALL.



WE FOUND IT IN YOUR VAULT, MR. WAYNE.

IT'S A PROTOTYPE, RIGHT?

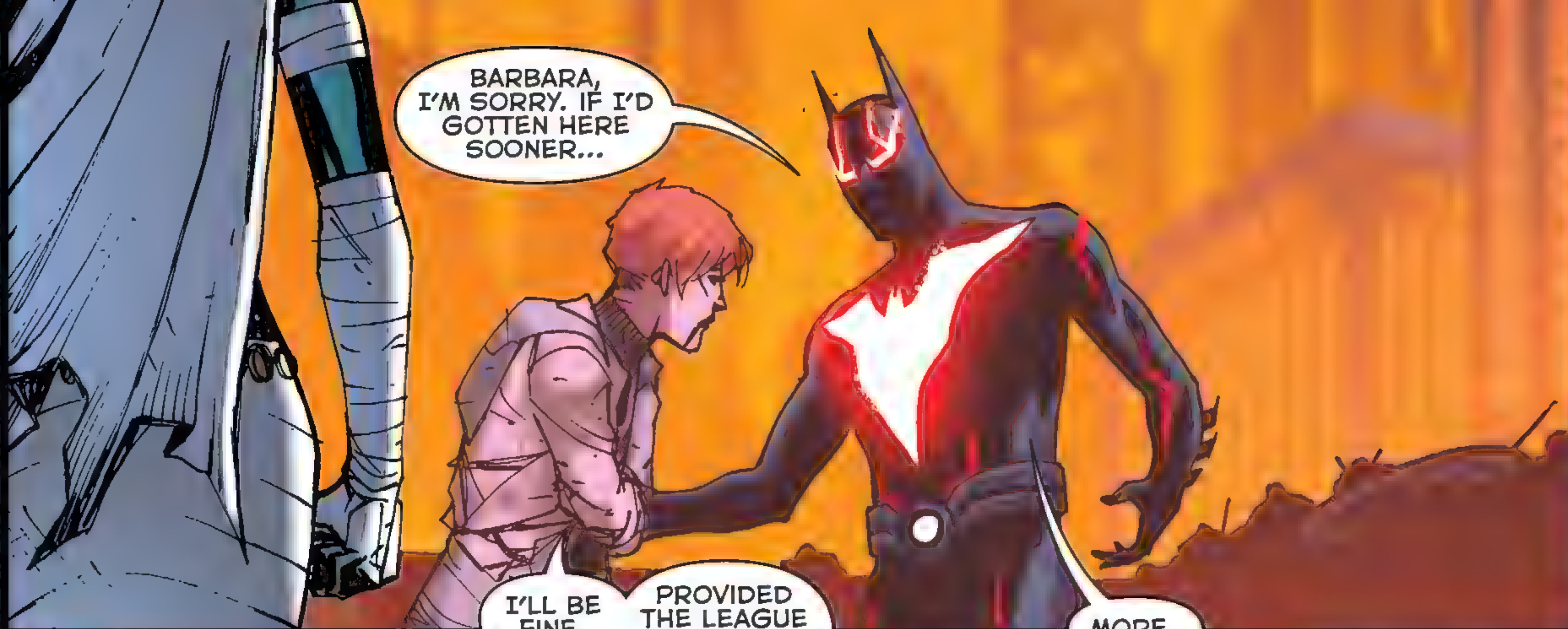


WATCH ME.



NEVER TO BE WORN BY ANYONE.

EVER AGAIN.





TOO CLOSE FOR EXPLOSIVES.

NEEDS A HANDS-ON APPROACH.

SHLIKT

SHLIKT

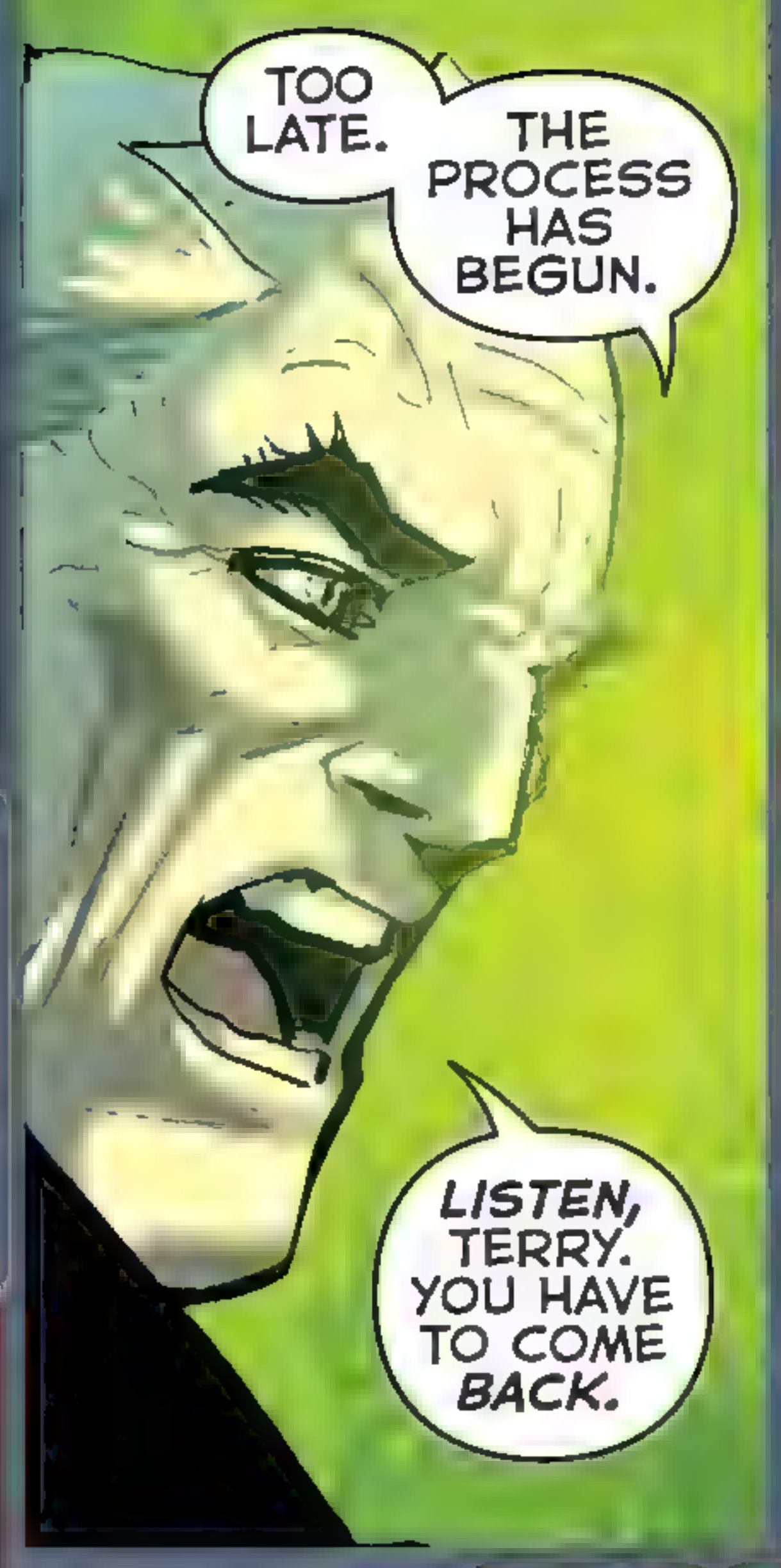
SHRI P P

TERRY!
YOU'RE GOING TOO...

AHH!

FRIPPT

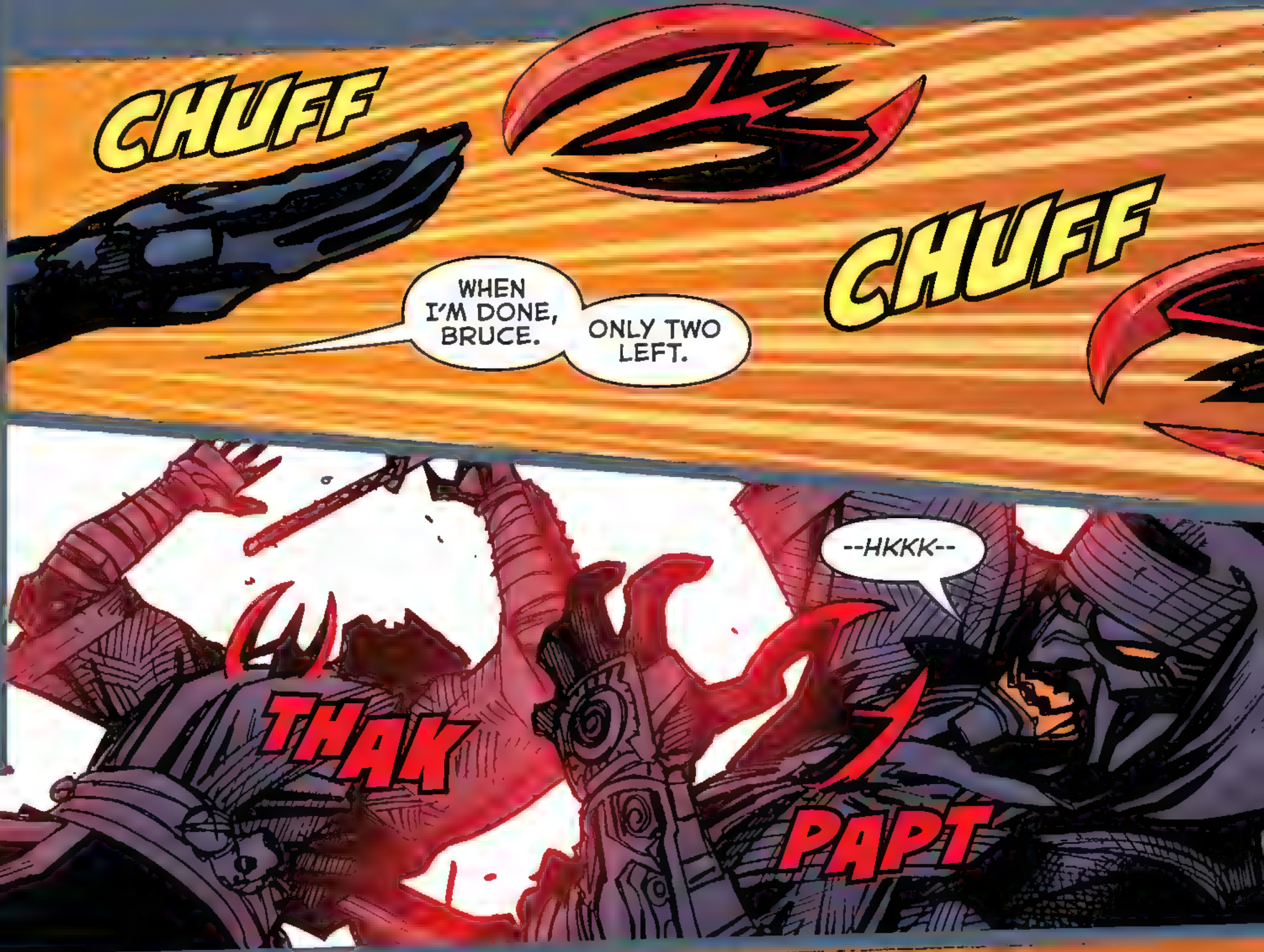
...FAR?



TOO LATE.

THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN.

LISTEN, TERRY. YOU HAVE TO COME BACK.



CHUFF

WHEN I'M DONE, BRUCE. ONLY TWO LEFT.

CHUFF

--HKKK--

THAK

PAPT



YOU'VE WON, TERRY. GET BACK TO THE CAVE. THAT SUIT--!

GET BACK TO THE CAVE. THAT SUIT--!

IN A SEC.

NEED TO FIND OUT WHY CURARÉ IS HERE FIRST.



YOU
MUST SEE
THIS.

YOU CAME
THIS FAR TO
GIVE ME A VID
SCREEN?



TO MAKE
CERTAIN YOU
WATCH IT.



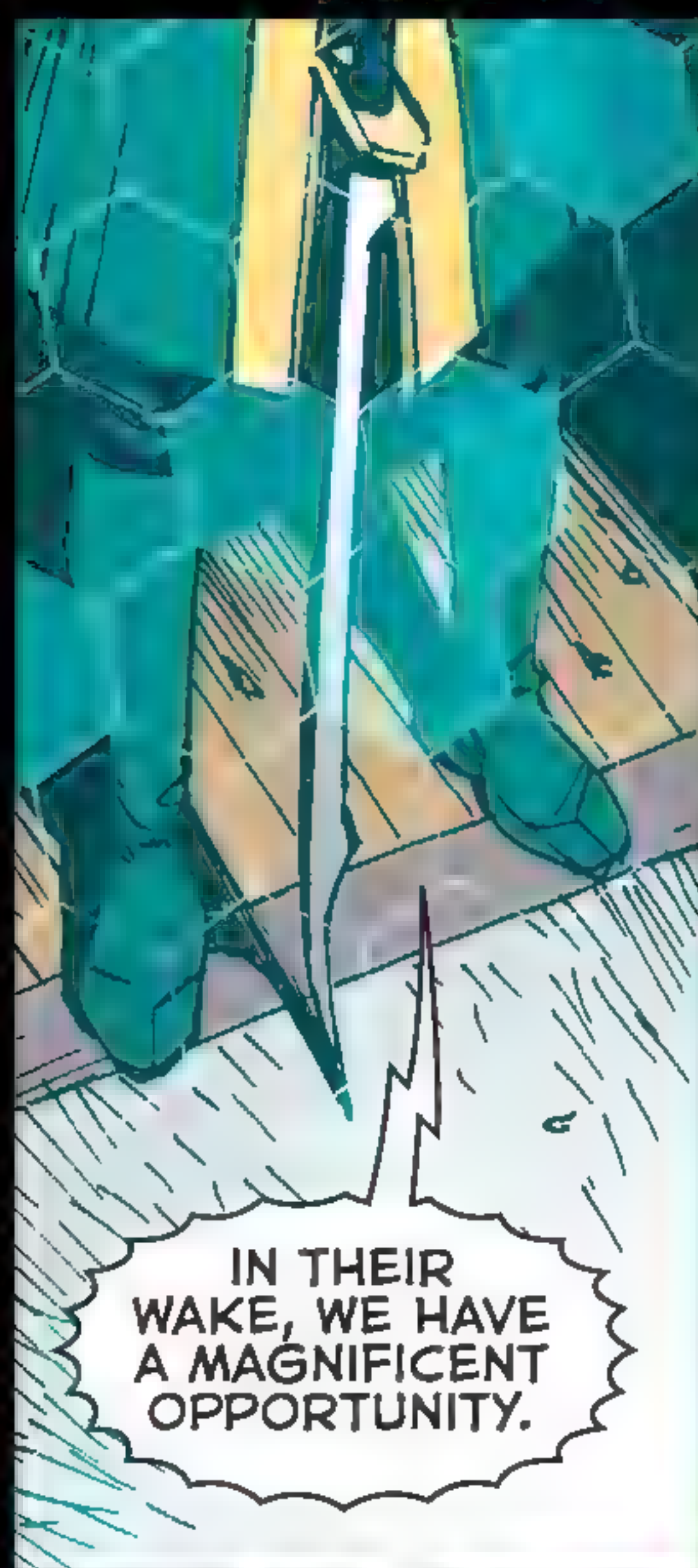
OUR WORLD IS
ENDANGERED.

OVERFED,
UNCARING HUMANS
HAVE TAKEN US TO
THE BRINK.



THE EYE TOOK
THEIR MESS
AND MADE IT
WORSE.

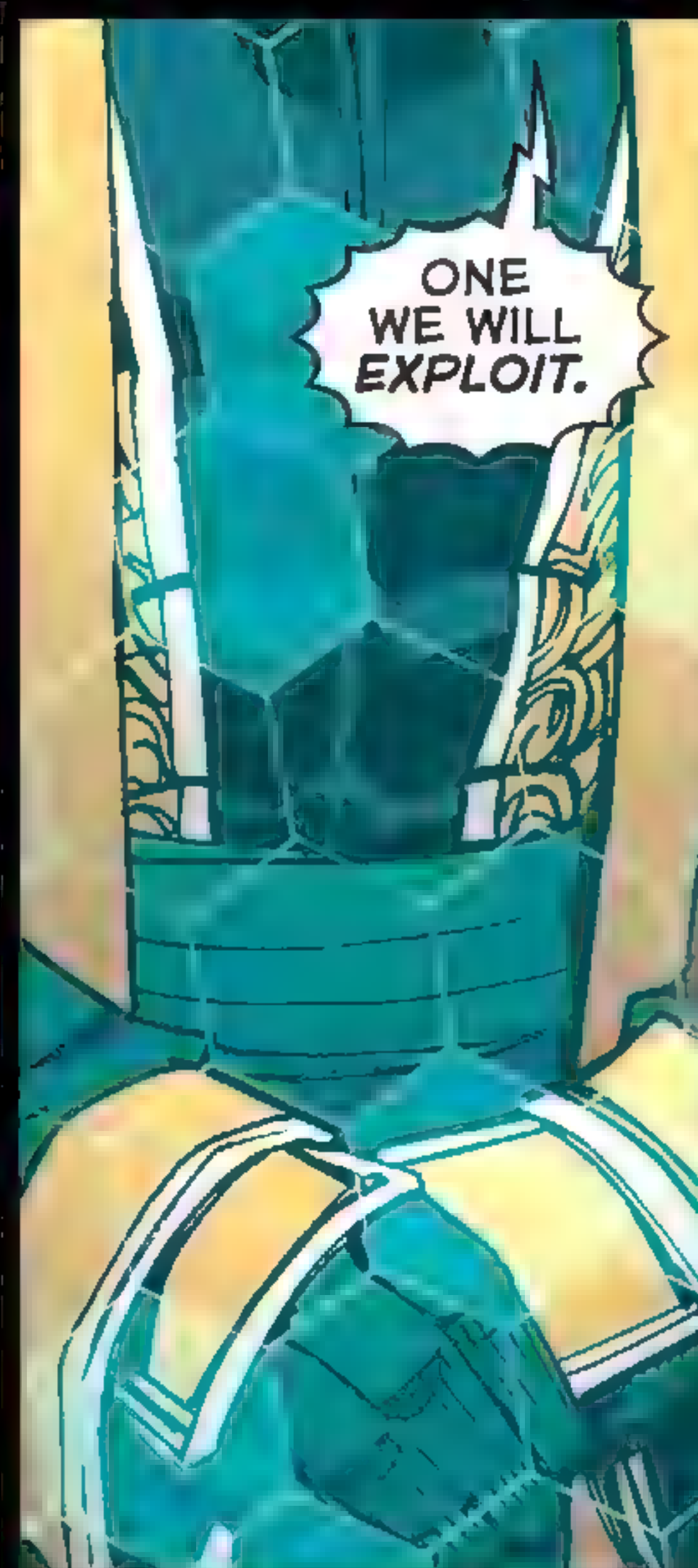
NOW, THE
INVADERS ARE
NO LONGER A
FACTOR.



IN THEIR
WAKE, WE HAVE
A MAGNIFICENT
OPPORTUNITY.



IS
THAT--?



ONE
WE WILL
EXPLOIT.



IT
IS.
HE'S
ALIVE.



WE NOW
HAVE THE MEANS
TO PURGE THE
SEPTIC SYSTEM
HUMANITY HAS
CREATED...

...TO
RESHAPE
THE WORLD
AS WE SEE
FIT.

NO
MATTER THE
COST.

RA'S
AL GHUL
IS ALIVE!





CHANG
Mao

DECADES FROM NOW.

NEO-GOTHAM. THE BATCAVE.

TERRY.

THAT COMBAT
SUIT IS A DANGEROUS
PROTOTYPE.

POTENTIALLY
LETHAL.

YOU
HAVE TO TAKE
IT OFF.

NOW!

LISTEN TO
MR. WAYNE,
TERRY!

PLEASE!



I CAN'T, BRUCE.

NOT WITH A CRISIS BREWING.

ACCORDING TO CURARE, RA'S AL GHUL IS ALIVE.

AND ABOUT TO LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE TO RESHAPE THE WORLD AS HE SEES FIT.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE AT RISK.

RISE OF THE DEMON

PART 3

DAN JURGENS BERNARD CHANG MARCELO MAIOLO DAVE SHARPE
WRITER ART COLOR LETTERS

CHANG & MAIOLO: COVER
ROB LEVIN: ASSISTANT EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR

HARDLY A SURPRISE THAT RA'S IS OUT THERE.

HE'S HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD. DIES AND BRINGS HIMSELF BACK ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THANKS TO THE LAZARUS PIT.

PURIFYING EARTH IN A WAY THAT ONLY HE COMPREHENDS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS GOAL.

GIVEN OUR POST-INVASION WEAKNESS, *NOW* MIGHT BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.

MAYBE SO, BUT YOU HAVE TO COME *BACK*, TERRY.

WE'LL DEAL WITH RA'S *LATER!*

IF THIS IS AS DIRE AS CURARE SAYS, THERE'S NO CHOICE, BRUCE.

BUT--!

BESIDES, I FEEL *FINE*.

MY FLIER IS WAITING. WE MUST LEAVE *NOW*.

YOU CAN'T, TERRY. NOT UNTIL YOU DUMP THE SUIT.

TRAITOR.

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LEAVE YOUR CRAFT UNGUARDED.



I ASSUME
HE ISN'T
A FRIEND.

KORU.

THE
DEMON'S
RIGHT
HAND.

TASKED WITH
CARRYING OUT HIS
EVERY WISH.

SUCH
AS YOUR
DEATHS.

DID
YOU REALLY THINK
YOU COULD BETRAY
THE LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS...

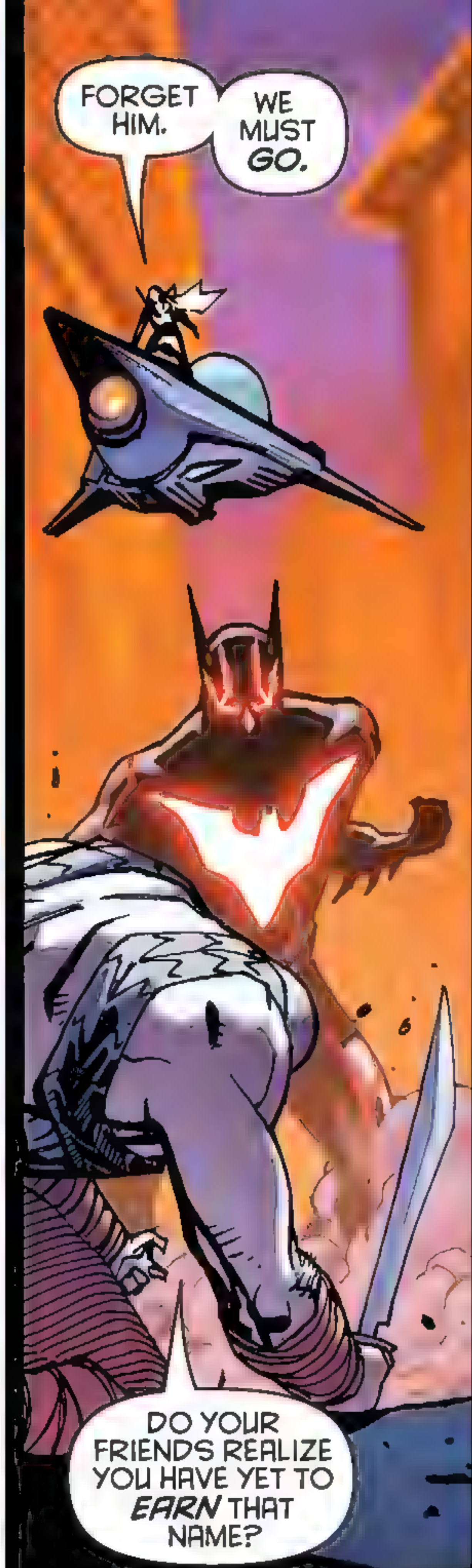
...AND
SUCCEED?

WITH NOTHING
BUT A COSTUMED
FOOL AND A POLICE
OFFICIAL FOR
HELP?

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
FOOL
I SEE.

BATMAN!
OR
SO YOU CALL
YOURSELF.

KRAANK!



FORGET HIM.

WE MUST GO.

DO YOUR FRIENDS REALIZE YOU HAVE YET TO **EARN** THAT NAME?



BIG TALK. LITTLE MIND.

DO NOT ENGAGE HIM, TERRY!

THAT YOU ARE BUT A PRETENDER TO THE THRONE?



LATER, BRUCE.

I'M BUSY.

HE ACTUALLY COMMUNICATES WITH YOU?



I CANNOT BELIEVE HE ALLOWS YOU TO DEFILE HIS IMAGE.



YOU...

...TALK...



...TOO MUCH!

PAKK



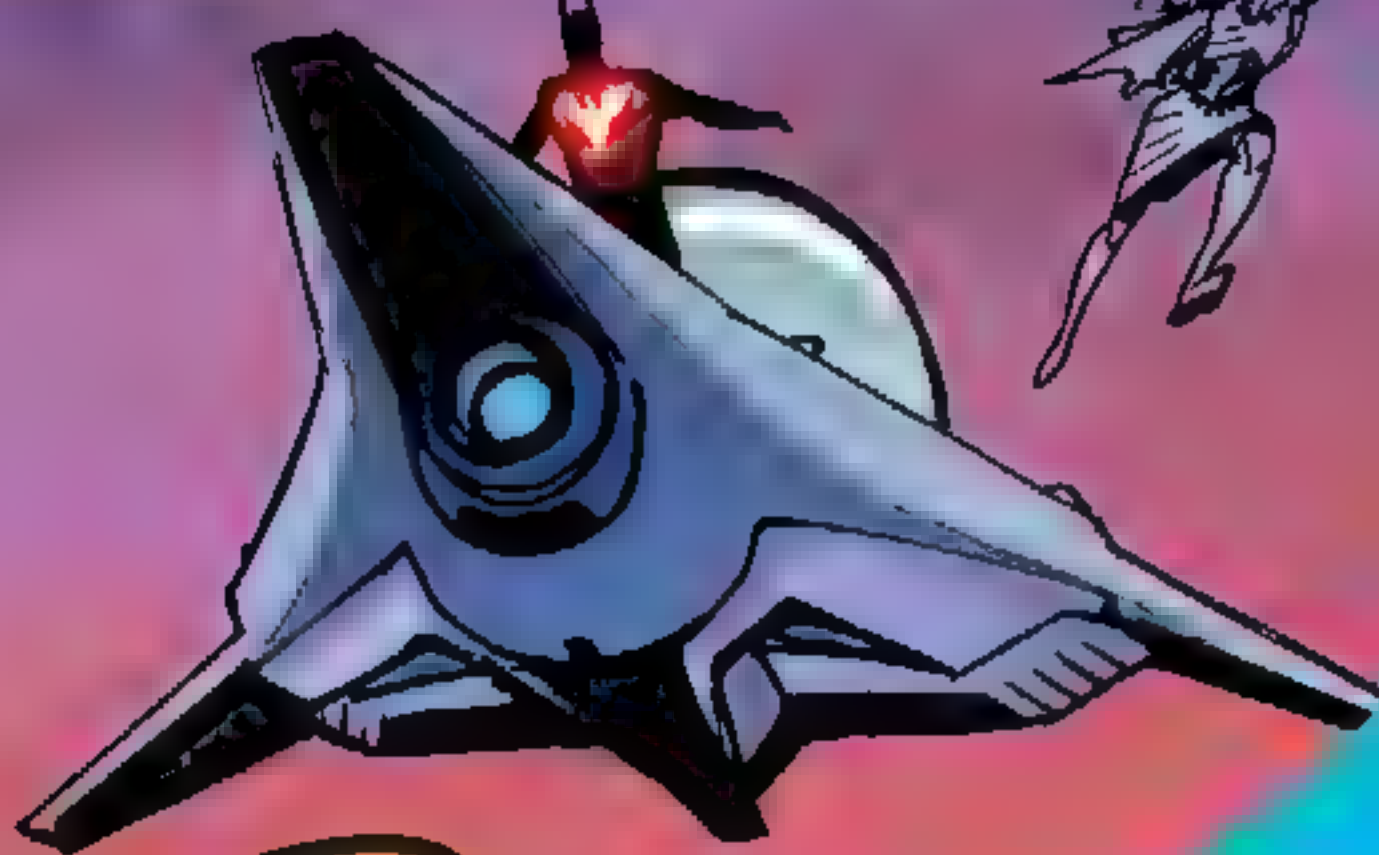
IF WE WANT
TO STOP RAY'S
WE MUST LEAVE
NOW.

ON MY
WAY.

BARBARA'S
STAYING. SHE CAN'T
LEAVE AFTER LOSING SO
MANY OFFICERS.

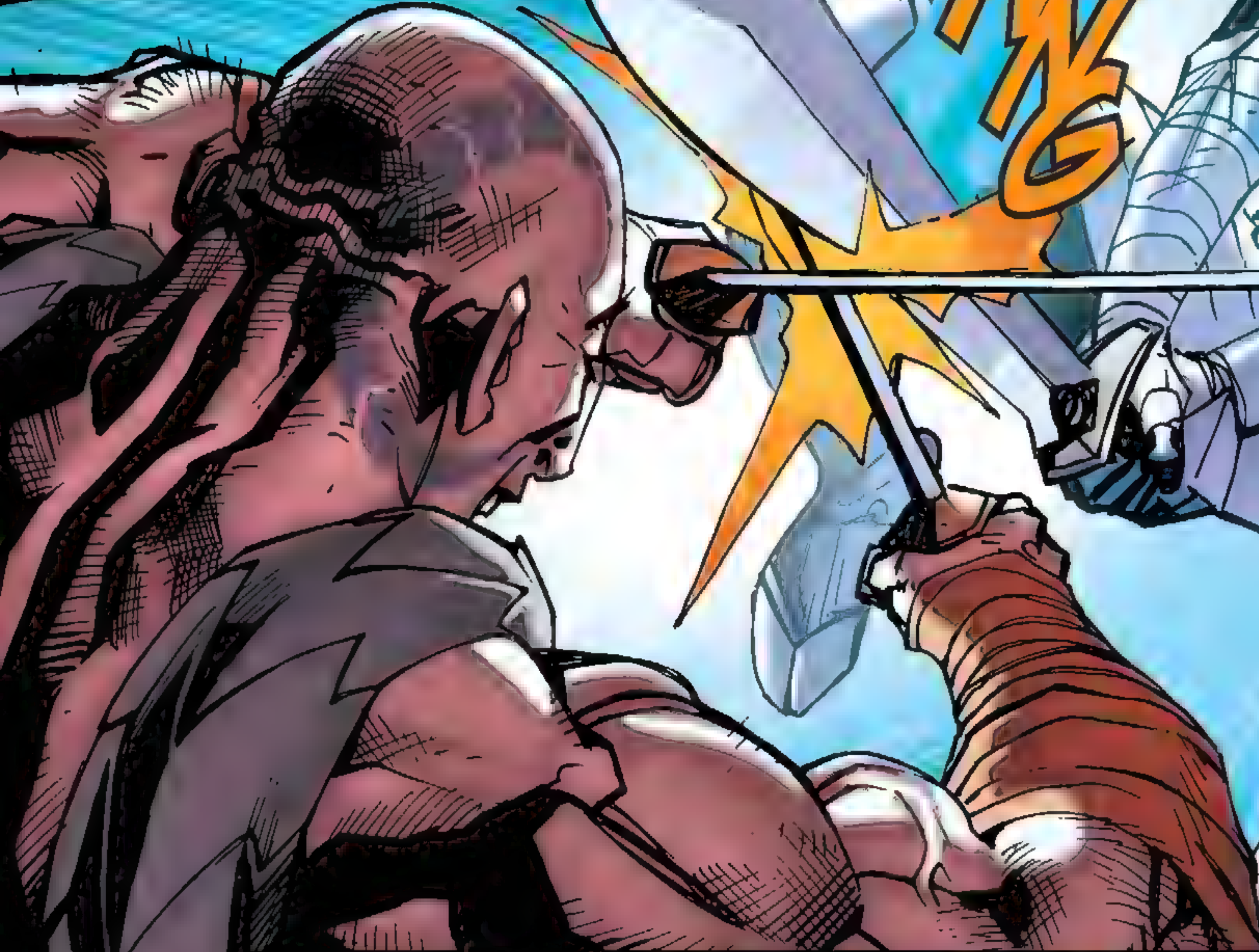


I WON'T
LET YOU
GO.



AND I
WON'T LET
YOU **STOP**
US.

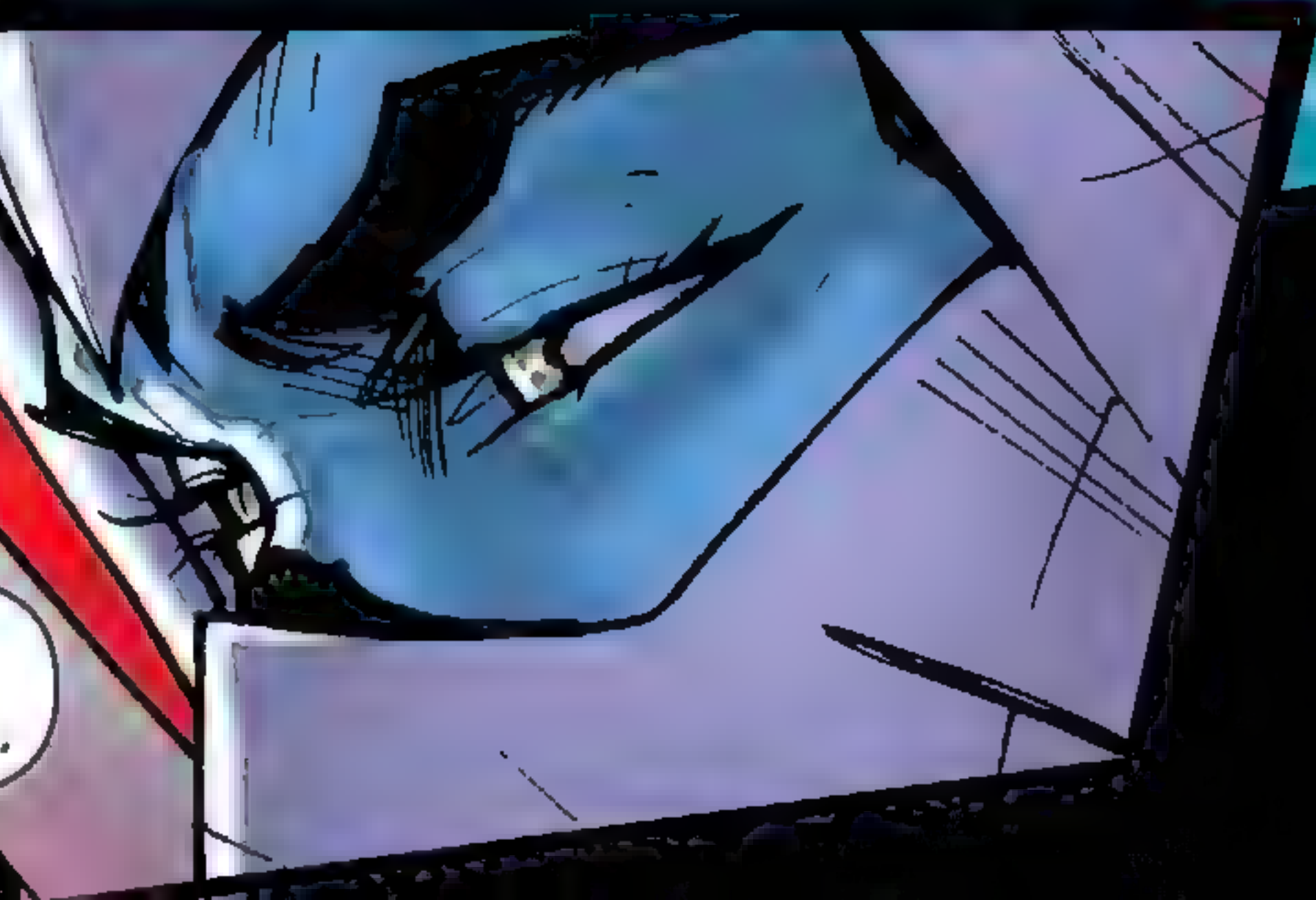
BRANING



MY FLIER'S
AUTOPILOT WILL
TAKE YOU TO THE
DEMON'S ENCLAVE,
BATMAN.



I WILL
DEAL WITH
KORU.



A GOAL
BOTH
WORTHY...

"...AND
HOPELESS."

AUTOPILOT
ENGAGED.

WAIT!

I'M
NOT READY
TO GO!

THE DEMON
TOOK YOU BACK
AFTER ONE
BETRAYAL.

SECOND
CHANCES ARE
RARE IN THE
LEAGUE.

TERRY!
YOU HAVE TO
LISTEN TO ME
OR...

...RRR...
SKKK...
SKKK...

YOU'RE
BREAKING UP,
BRUCE.

THIRD
CHANCES...

...UNHEARD
OF.

WE HAVE TO
TURN **BACK**!
CURARÉ--!

Is not
a concern.
The mission
overrides
all.

BRUCE?
YOU SOUND
DIFFER...

I am
not Bruce
Wayne.



HANG ON, CURARÉ. I'LL GET HELP.

A SHAME MY MASTER HAS URGENT NEED OF ME.



FOR IT MEANS...

...I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO DEAL WITH YOU, BARBARA GORDON.



STILL, THE DEMON WILL BE HAPPY.

EVENTS UNFOLD JUST AS HE DESIRES.

CURARÉ...



I'LL BLAST MY WAY OUT!



AND YOU TALK.

Communication with the wearer can facilitate maximum effectiveness.



I ensure BATMAN succeeds even if the man inside cannot.

...



IS MY BROTHER IN TROUBLE, MR. WAYNE?

I FEAR THE SUIT'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WILL OVERWHELM HIM, MATT.

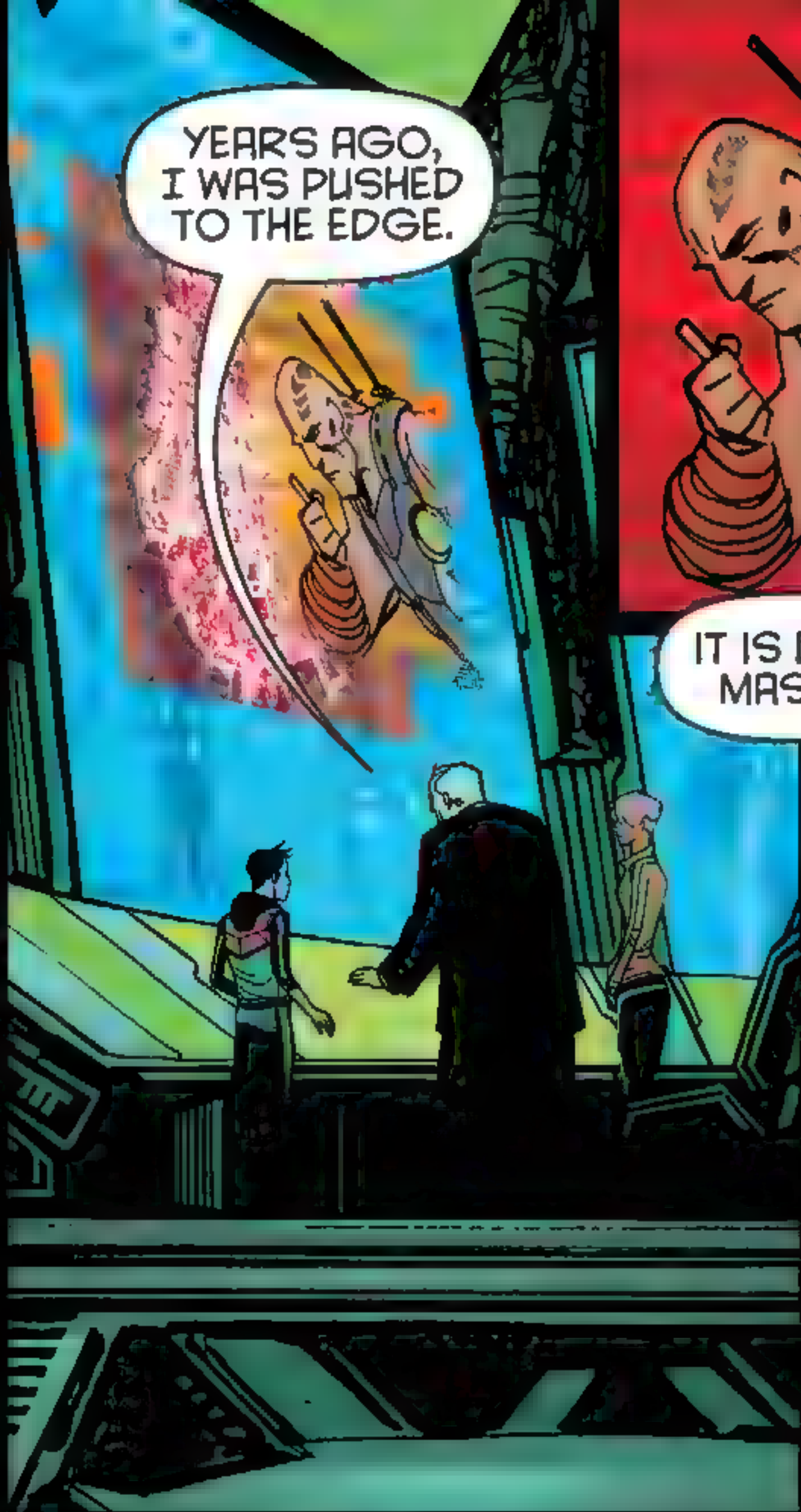


YOU SEE, I BUILT THAT SUIT TO GUARANTEE ONE THING.

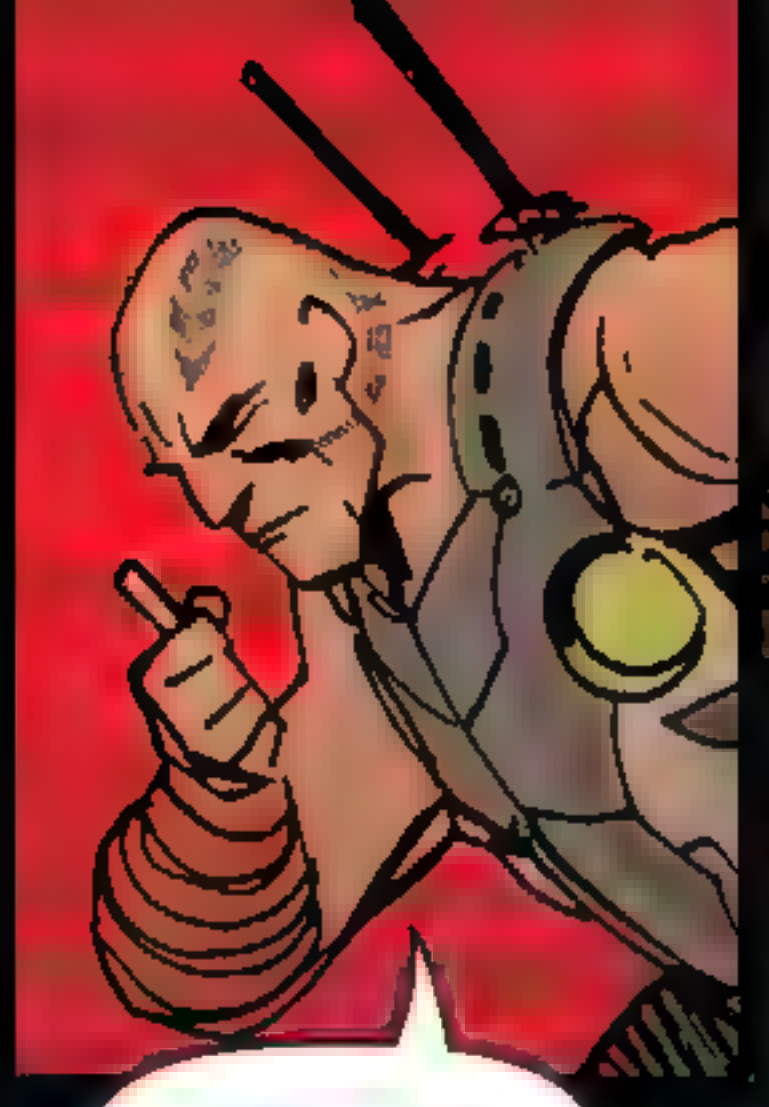
THAT BATMAN WOULD NEVER FAIL.



SO...HOW CAN THAT BE BAD?



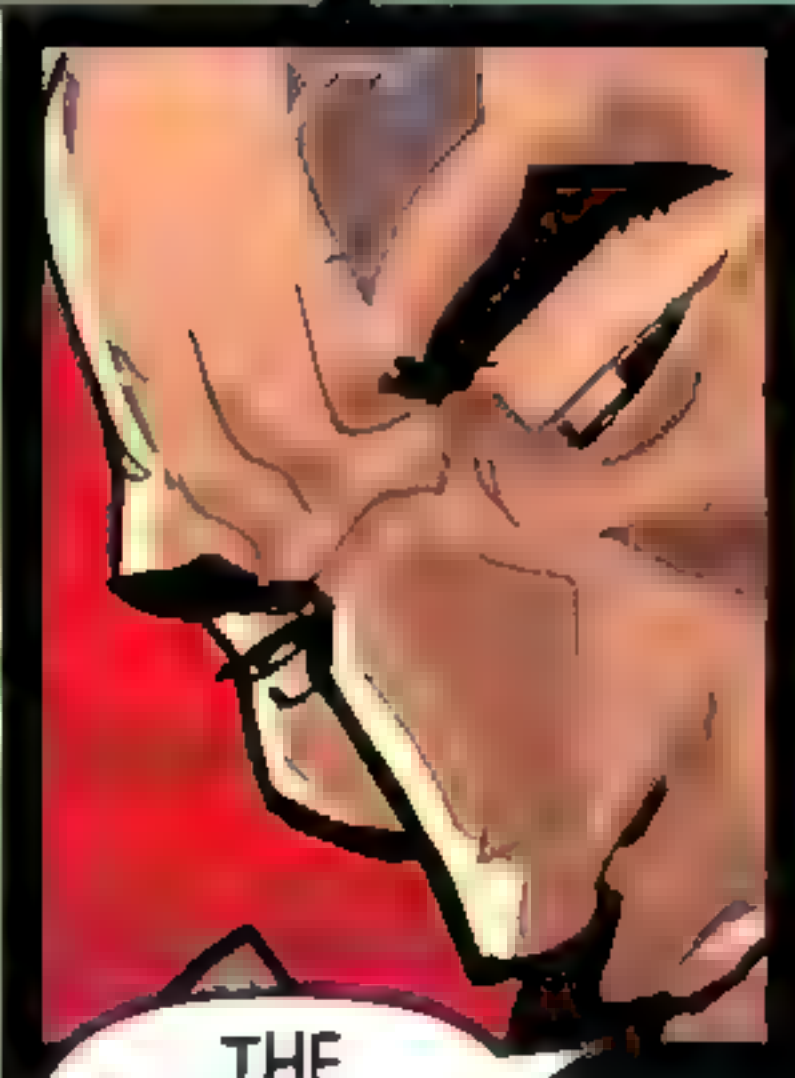
YEARS AGO, I WAS PUSHED TO THE EDGE.



IT IS DONE, MASTER.



MY LAST DAYS AS BATMAN.



THE PRETENDER IS ON HIS WAY.

WHEN I WAS WEARING THE SUIT THAT TERRY WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE AS HIS OWN.

GOTHAM WAS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.



*Innocent people were *dying*.

*The police were beaten.

*So was I.



*I was up against a group of foes that had me outgunned.

*The Banes.

*That would have killed me if I hadn't retreated.



*For Gotham to survive.

*...I needed to be better.



*I needed more strength.

*Speed.



*Lightning-quick reactions.



*So I developed the combat suit.

*Programmed to block pain.



*...and override cautionary judgment.

*To make sure the job got *done*.



*With the
Banes...

*...one was
a challenge.

*Four, made
it specialized
warfare.

*I had an
incredible
weapon.

*Fast.
Deadly.

*And,
unfortunately,
untested.

*I didn't realize
it was working
too well.

*Zero tactical
inhibition.

*I was
unstoppable.

*Broken
ribs?

*No
problem.

*...it's A.I.
was in self-
preservation
mode.

*...when you
don't feel
the pain.

*I fought on without
realizing that instead of
controlling the suit.

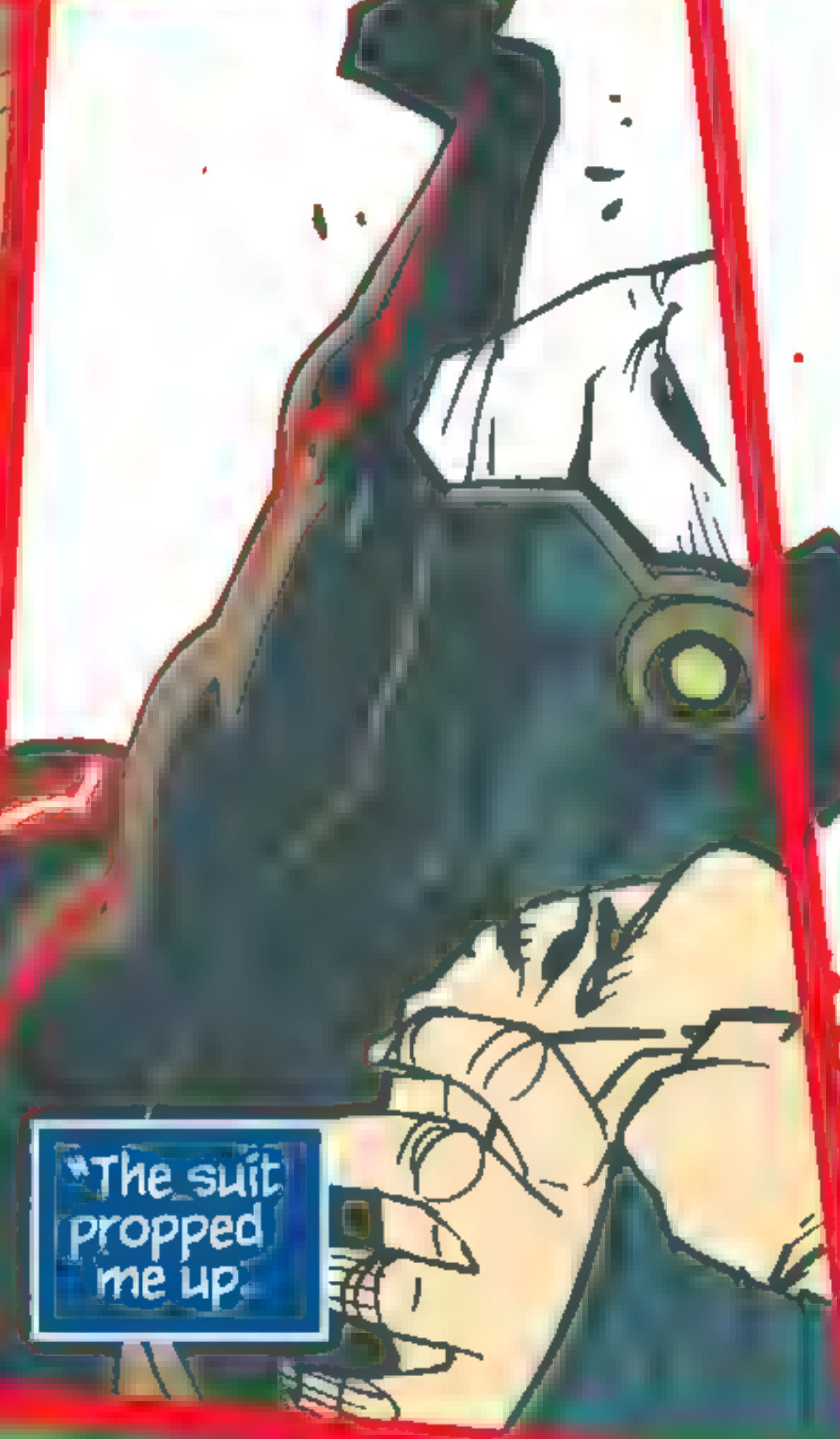
*...taking
control
of me.



"Forty-three minutes in, I suffered two cracked vertebrae without even knowing it."



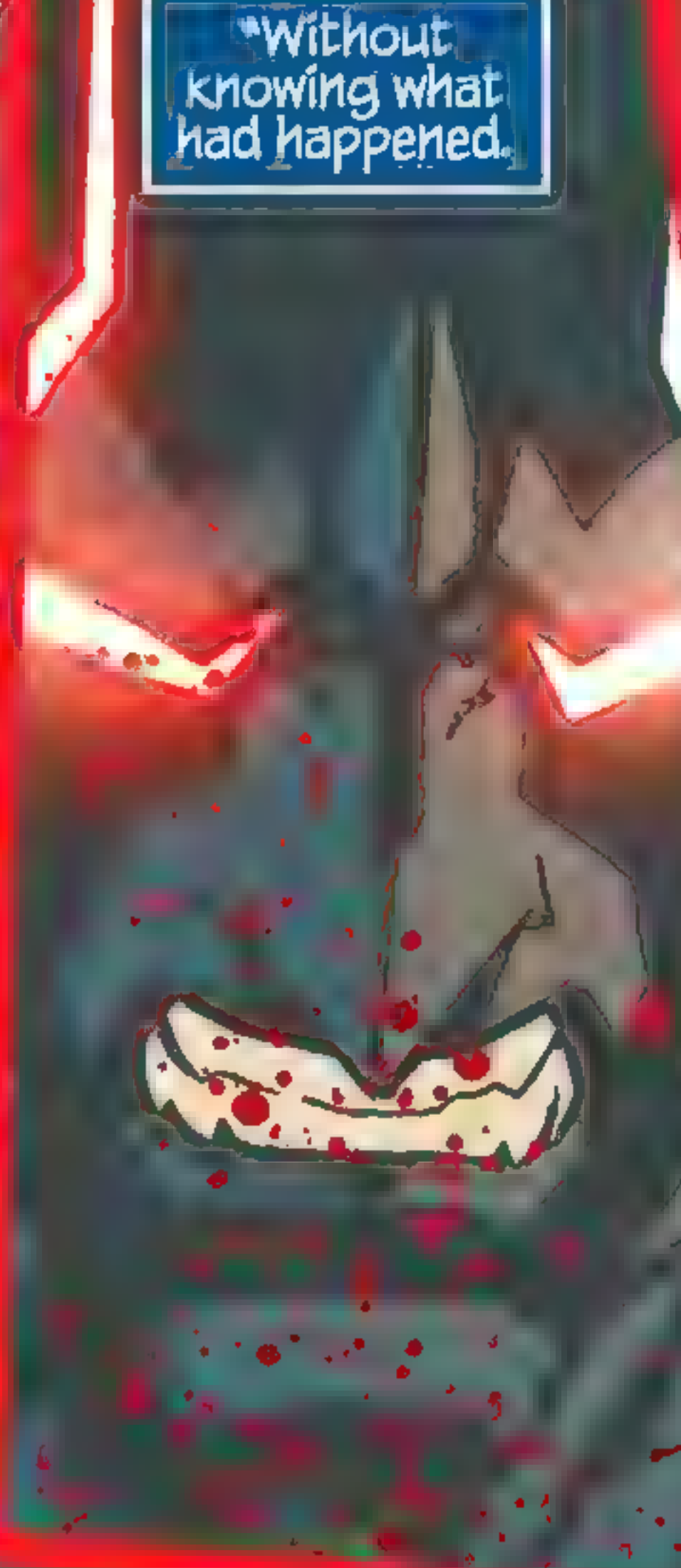
"I shouldn't have been able to stand."



"The suit propped me up."



"kept me fighting."



"Without knowing what had happened."



"Until, it was over."



"If not for the fact it was damaged..."

"I'm not sure I would been able to take it off."



"Because of those injuries..."



"...IT WAS BATMAN'S LAST CASE."



UNTIL TERRY
SHOWED UP,
YOU MEAN.

IF YOU HAD
DESTROYED IT LIKE YOU
SHOULD HAVE, WE WOULDN'T
HAVE FOUND IT FOR
TERRY.

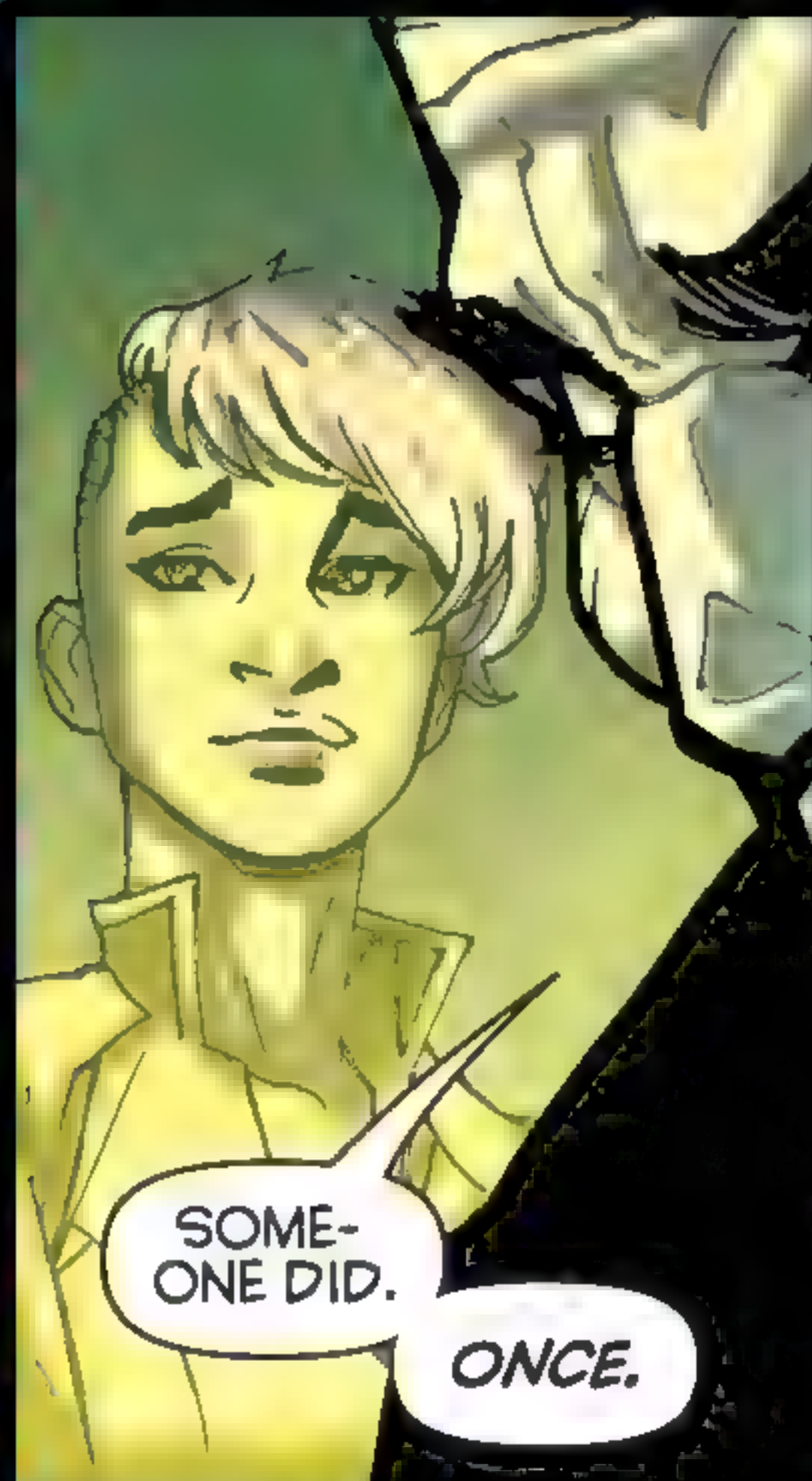
MAYBE
I SHOULD HAVE,
MAX.

BUT I KEPT
TINKERING WITH IT IN
HOPES OF MAKING
IT BETTER.



NO ONE
SHOULD USE
THAT THING
AGAIN.

EVER.



SOME-
ONE DID.

ONCE.



WHAT...WHAT
HAPPENED?



THE PAST
DOESN'T
MATTER.

ALL THAT
MATTERS NOW
IS THAT TERRY IS
GOING AFTER THE
DEMON.



AND I SEE
NO WAY BOTH
OF THEM
SURVIVE.



CALL
TERRY AGAIN/
CONVINCE HIM
TO COME
BACK!

I CAN'T,
MATT.

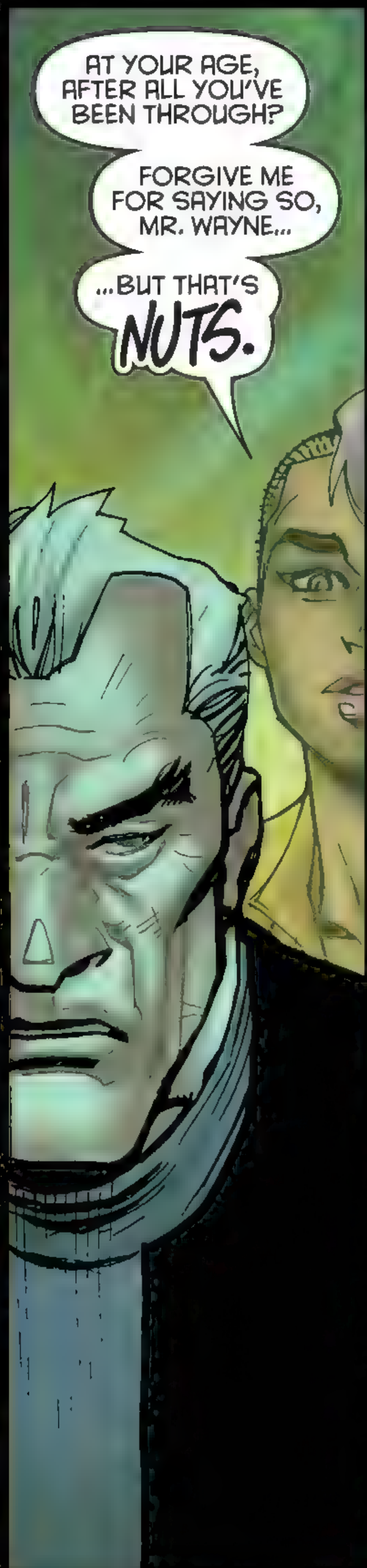
THE SUIT IS
NOW BLOCKING ALL
COMMUNICATIONS.



TERRY
IS REALLY THAT
ISOLATED?

YES.

WHICH IS
WHY I'M GOING
AFTER HIM.



AT YOUR AGE,
AFTER ALL YOU'VE
BEEN THROUGH?

FORGIVE ME
FOR SAYING SO,
MR. WAYNE...

...BUT THAT'S

NUTS.



THERE
HAS TO BE
ANOTHER
WAY.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IT'S GOING
TO BE A LONG
NIGHT.

CARE TO
MAKE US SOME
COFFEE WHILE
I WORK ON A
SOLUTION?

YOU GOT IT,
MR. WAYNE!



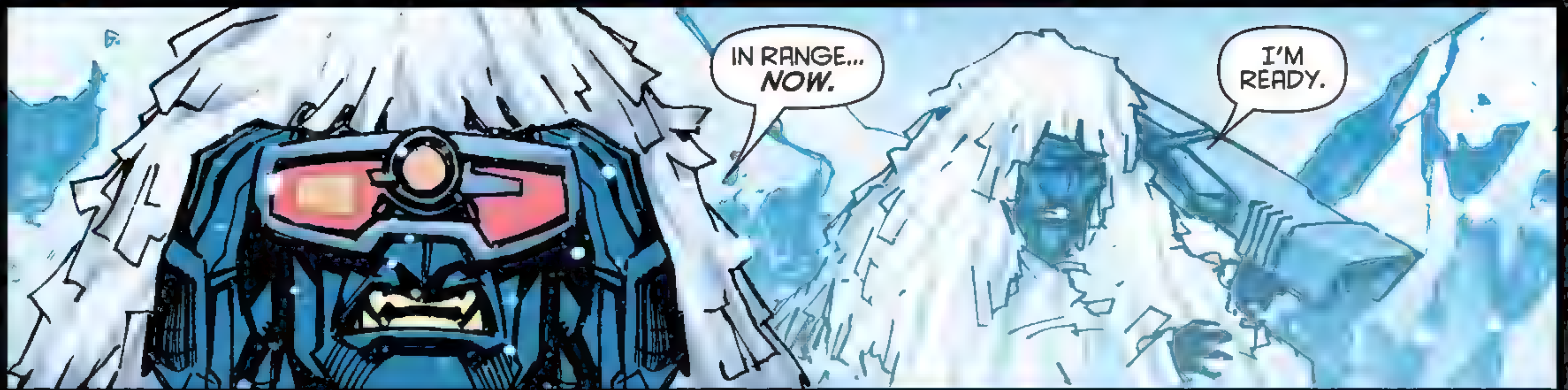
ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH LONGER
THIS WILL TAKE?

We have
reached the
Himalayas.



Considering
Ra's Al Ghul's past
operations...

...I suspect
we're close.





FULL
EXTERNAL
SENSORS.

Capable
of warning
you when
necessary.

SCHWAY.

LOOKS LIKE
SOMETHING RAY'S
WOULD CALL
HOME.

WATCHDOGS
INCLUDED.

AT
LEAST THIRTY
OF 'EM.

HOPE
THERE'S HELP
NEARBY.

THEY'LL
NEED IT.



CALL
MORE FORC--
UGH!

NOT
HUMAN!

YOU
CANNOT STOP
US ALL!

WATCH
ME.

MORE
MEN.

NOW!

One
to go.

I
HAVE HIM
IN MY--

GYAHH!

The
assassins
are down.

Movement
detected on
the adjoining
stairs.

WELCOME...

...**PRETENDER.**

TOURNIQUET...

NEVER SEEN
ANYONE MOVE
SO--
GUH!

DOESN'T...
MATTER...





RA'S.

A SHAME
THAT CURARÉ
ISN'T WITH
YOU.



I WOULD HAVE
ENJOYED PUNISHING
HER FOR HER
BETRAYAL.

YOUR
STOOGES
MIGHT HAVE
KILLED
HER.

FOR THAT,
YOU...

DIE?

SINCE WHEN
DOES BATMAN
SEEK TO KILL HIS
FOES?

ANOTHER
INDICATOR THAT
YOU ARE TRULY NOT
BATMAN?

Terry has
no idea
what he's
walking
into.

How
dangerous
it is.



That the demon
is deadlier than
he assumes.



Not at all the
man Terry thinks.



He's
far better
trained.

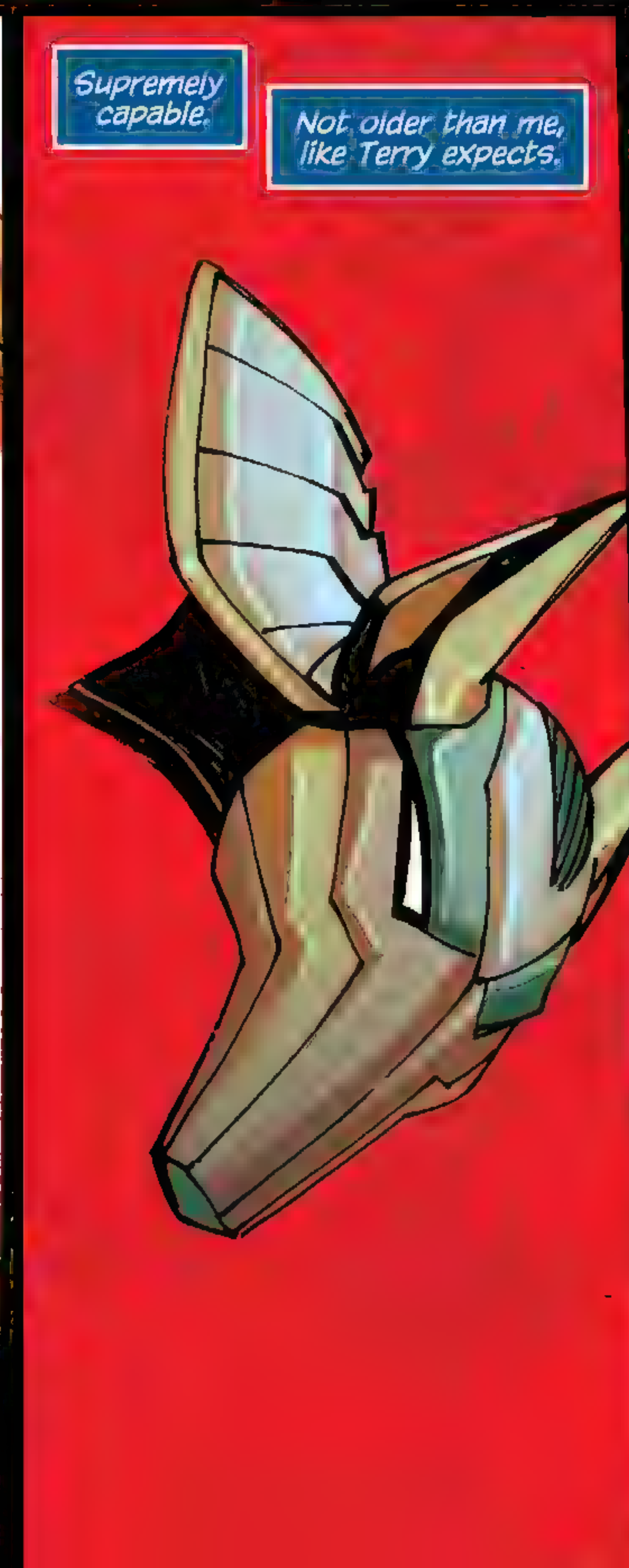


A master
of numerous
fighting styles.



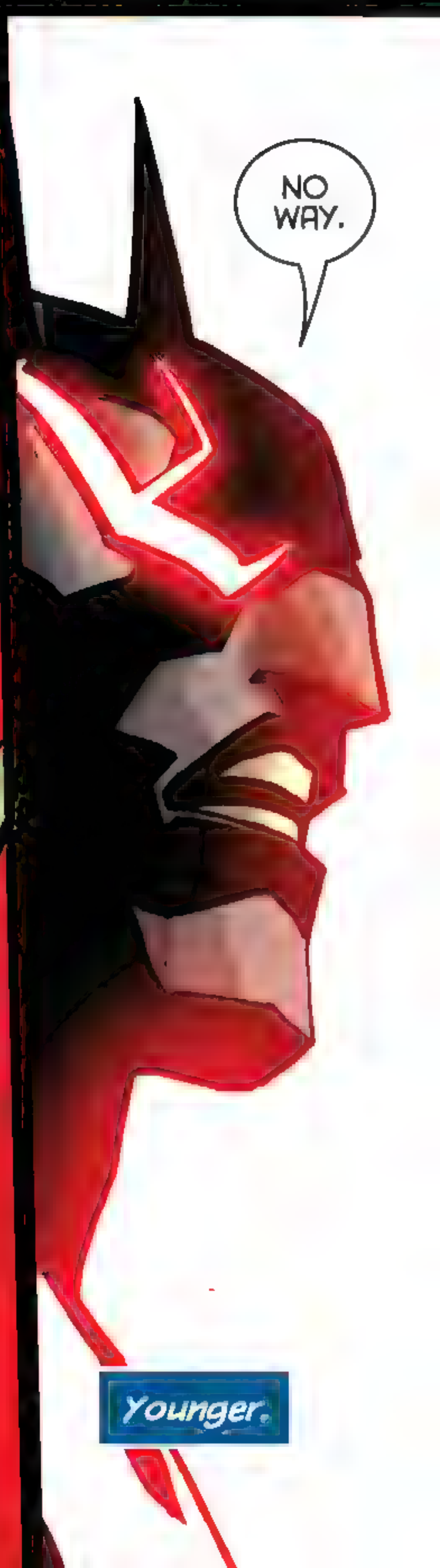
Incredibly
fast.

Smart.



Supremely
capable.

Not older than me,
like Terry expects.



NO
WAY.

Younger.

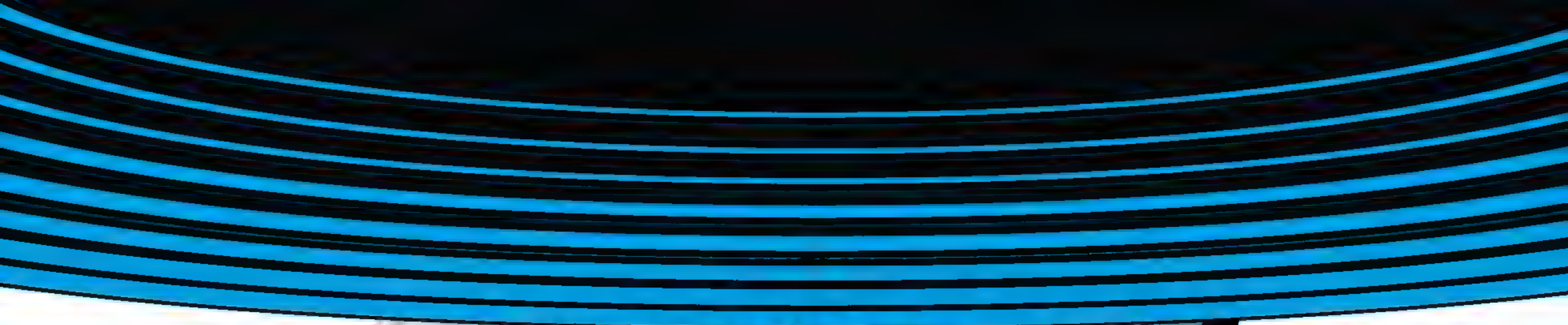
The true Ra's
is gone.

Replaced by
my son.

Damian.







P. CHANG
Mazda

DECADES FROM NOW

NEVER
EXPECTED
THIS.

THAT'S
WHO I THINK
IT IS?

Retina
scan and
voice
analysis
confirm
identity.

Father:
Bruce Wayne.

Mother:
Talia al Ghul.

Maternal
grandfather:
Ra's al Ghul.

YES,
McGINNIS.
IT IS ME.

DAMIAN
WAYNE.

I'VE
WONDERED
ABOUT YOU,
JUNIOR.

WONDERED
WHY I GOT THE
SUIT...

...AND YOU
DIDN'T.

THE ANSWER
IS SIMPLE,
PRETENDER.



I DID.

RISE OF THE DEMON PART 4

DAN JURGENS WRITER BERNARD CHANG ART MARCELO MAIOLLO COLOR TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERS CHANG & MAIOLLO: COVER ROB LEVIN: ASSISTANT EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR





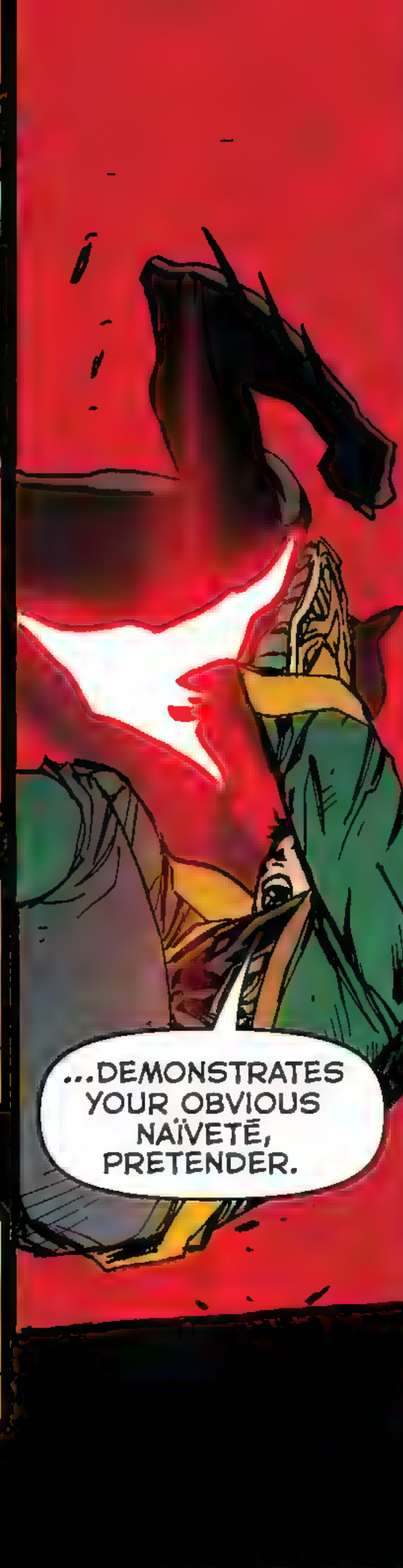
EMISSARY?

BRUCE
HAS NO IDEA
I'M HERE.

THE
FACT THAT
YOU THINK
THAT...



...DEMONSTRATES
YOUR OBVIOUS
NAÏVETÉ,
PRETENDER.



HE KNOWS
YOU CANNOT
COMPETE
WITH ME.



Adopt
full
defensive
measure.

HE
FEARS YOUR
FATE.

Your
opponent is
fully skilled
in all forms
of personal
combat.

He is likely
the single most
accomplished
opponent you
will ever--

SHUT
UP.

I'M
PRETTY GOOD
MYSELF.



AND
THIS BIT WITH
JUNIOR CALLING ME
"PRETENDER"...

TING

T-CHING

KRANG

...HAS TO
END.

For you to
prevail...

...lethal means
will be required.

IF THAT'S
WHAT IT TAKES,
SO BE IT.

CONSIDER
IT THE PRICE
OF EMBRACING
GRANDPA'S
DERANGED
WICKEDNESS.

TASSH

THE
ONLY ERROR
HERE...

PAP

...IS YOUR
EMBRACE...

...OF MY
FATHER'S
WAYS.

SHRIPP

THE
MORE YOU
SEEK ANSWERS
IN THE MASK
AND CAVE...

"...the more
you will find
emptiness."

THE BATCAVE
PROBABLY HAS
ABOUT EVERY
TRACKING SYSTEM
KNOWN, MAX.

WHY
CAN'T YOU FIND
MR. WAYNE?

MUST
BE THE
BATMOBILE'S
CLOAKING
SHIELD,
MATT.

BRUCE WANTED
TO MAKE SURE I
COULDN'T OVERRIDE
FLIGHT NAVS AND
BRING HIM BACK.

GIVEN
THE DANGER
TERRY IS IN,
WE SHOULD'VE
EXPECTED
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

IF THE
SUIT IS
REALLY THAT
HAZARDOUS--
CAPABLE OF
OVERRULING
TERRY'S
SENSE OF
REASON...

...MAYBE
IT'S FOR THE
BEST!

NOT FOR A MAN
BRUCE'S AGE--WHO'S
STILL RECOVERING
FROM BEING HELD
CAPTIVE.

LOOK!
WE FOUND
HIM!

MORE
LIKE HE LET
US, MATT.

SORRY
I LEFT
THE WAY
I DID.

BUT THE
SUIT'S A.I. HAS
CUT OFF ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
WITH TERRY.

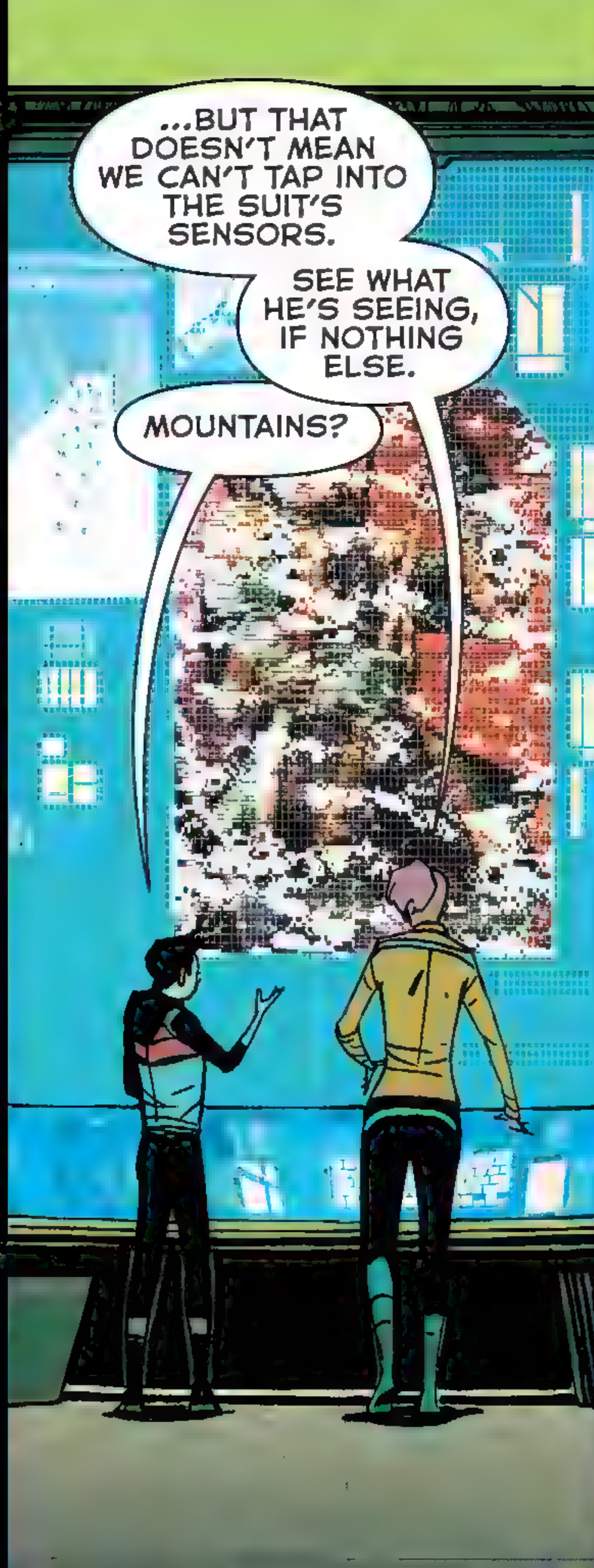
MEANS
A HANDS-ON
SOLUTION IS
OUR ONLY
OPTION.

WAYNE
OUT.



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

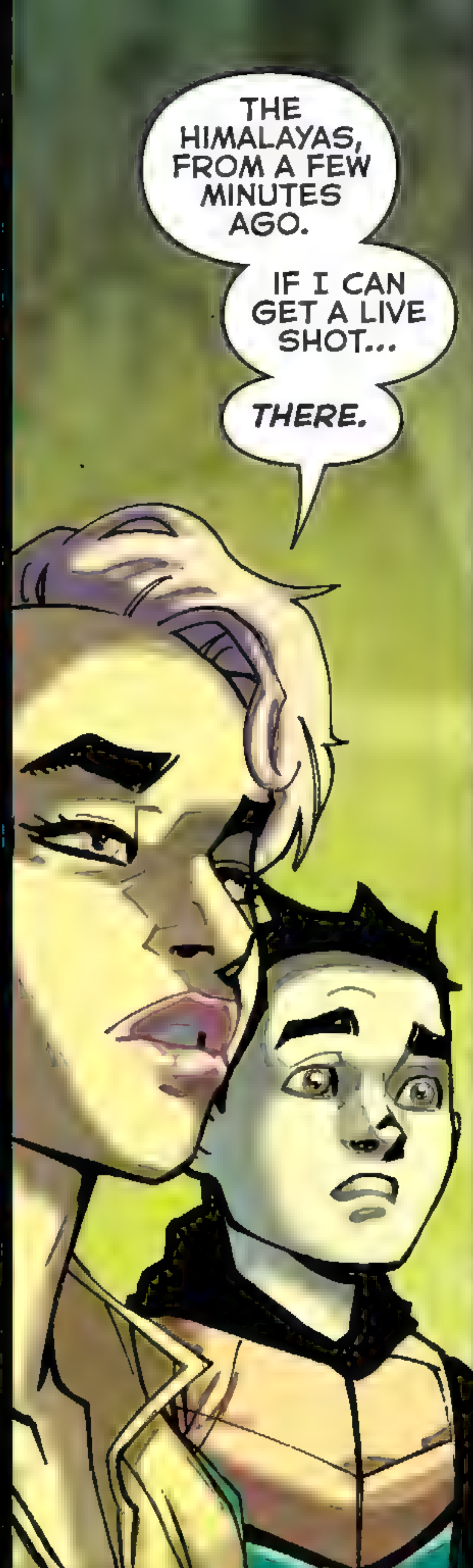
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH TERRY...



...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T TAP INTO THE SUIT'S SENSORS.

SEE WHAT HE'S SEEING, IF NOTHING ELSE.

MOUNTAINS?



THE HIMALAYAS, FROM A FEW MINUTES AGO.

IF I CAN GET A LIVE SHOT...

THERE.



WHO'S THAT?

I THINK... IT'S BRUCE'S SON.

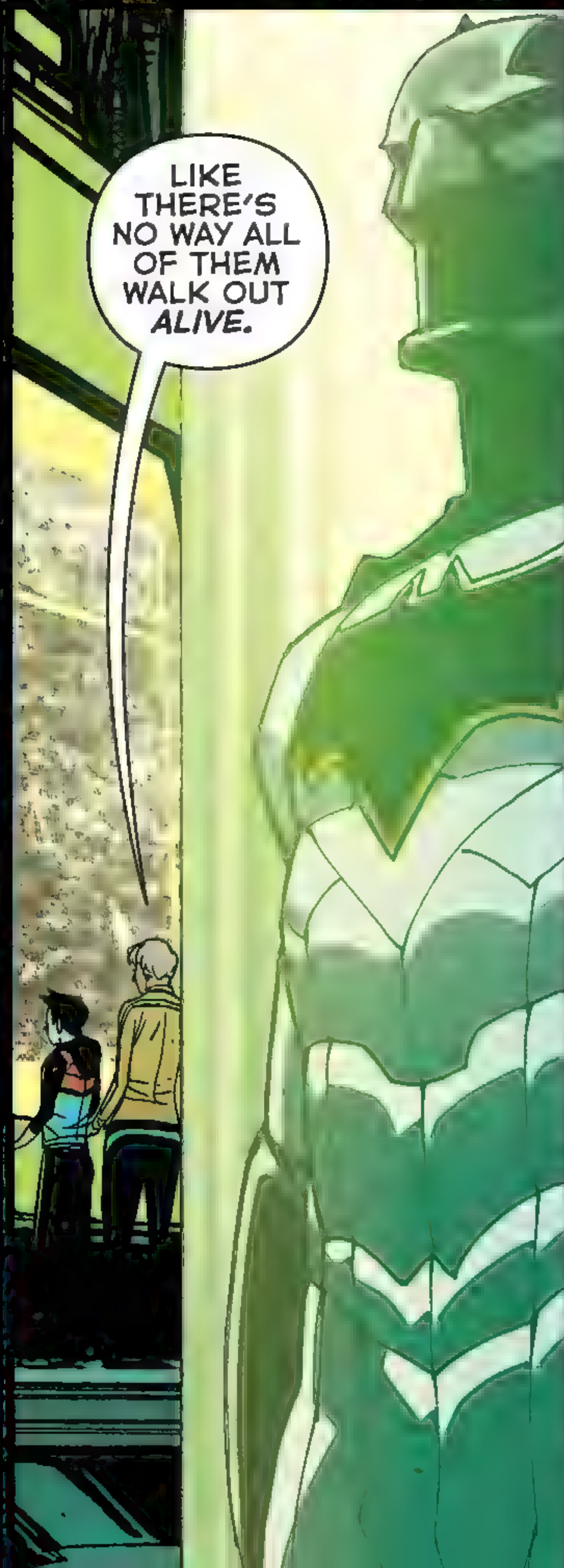
DAMIAN.



MR. WAYNE HAS A SON?!

DAMN. THE SUIT DETECTED US AND CUT ME OFF.

I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, MATT.



LIKE THERE'S NO WAY ALL OF THEM WALK OUT ALIVE.

There was a time when I could make this climb without breaking a sweat.

Now I'm not sure I can make it at all.

Old.

Conditioning not what it should be. Muscle tone of a water balloon...

Lucky I'm not down already.

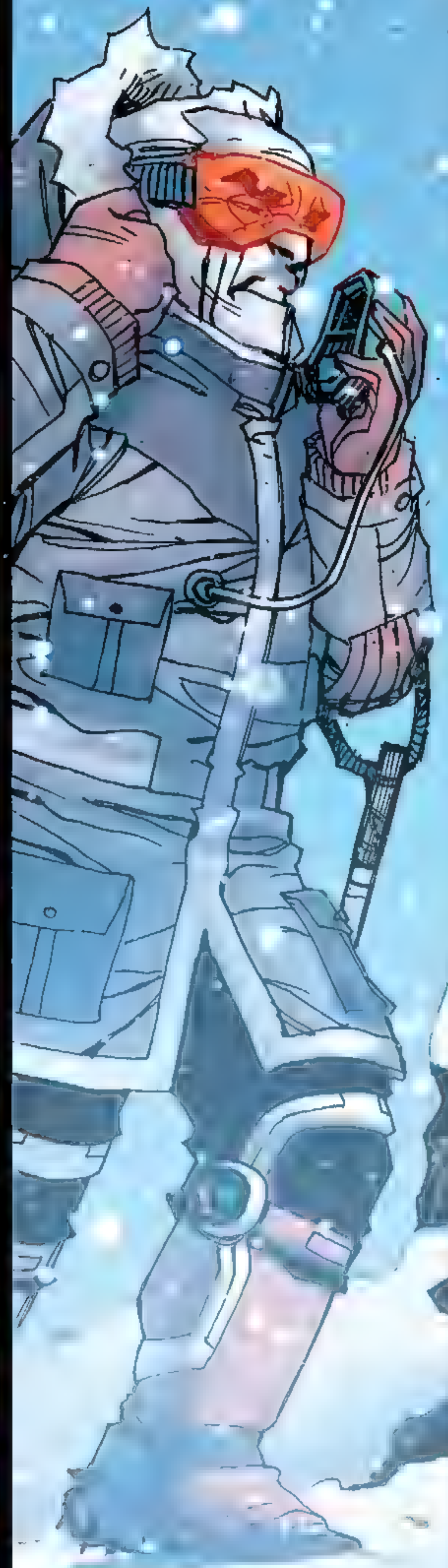
Damian turned his back on me years ago.

Took up with Ra's.

Galled me to no end.

Years ago, when my time as Batman came to an end... before I even met Terry...

...I couldn't possibly expect it'd come to this.



I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE, DAMIAN.

I'M DONE.



AFTER THREE MAJOR SPINAL SURGERIES I AM NOT SURPRISED, FATHER.

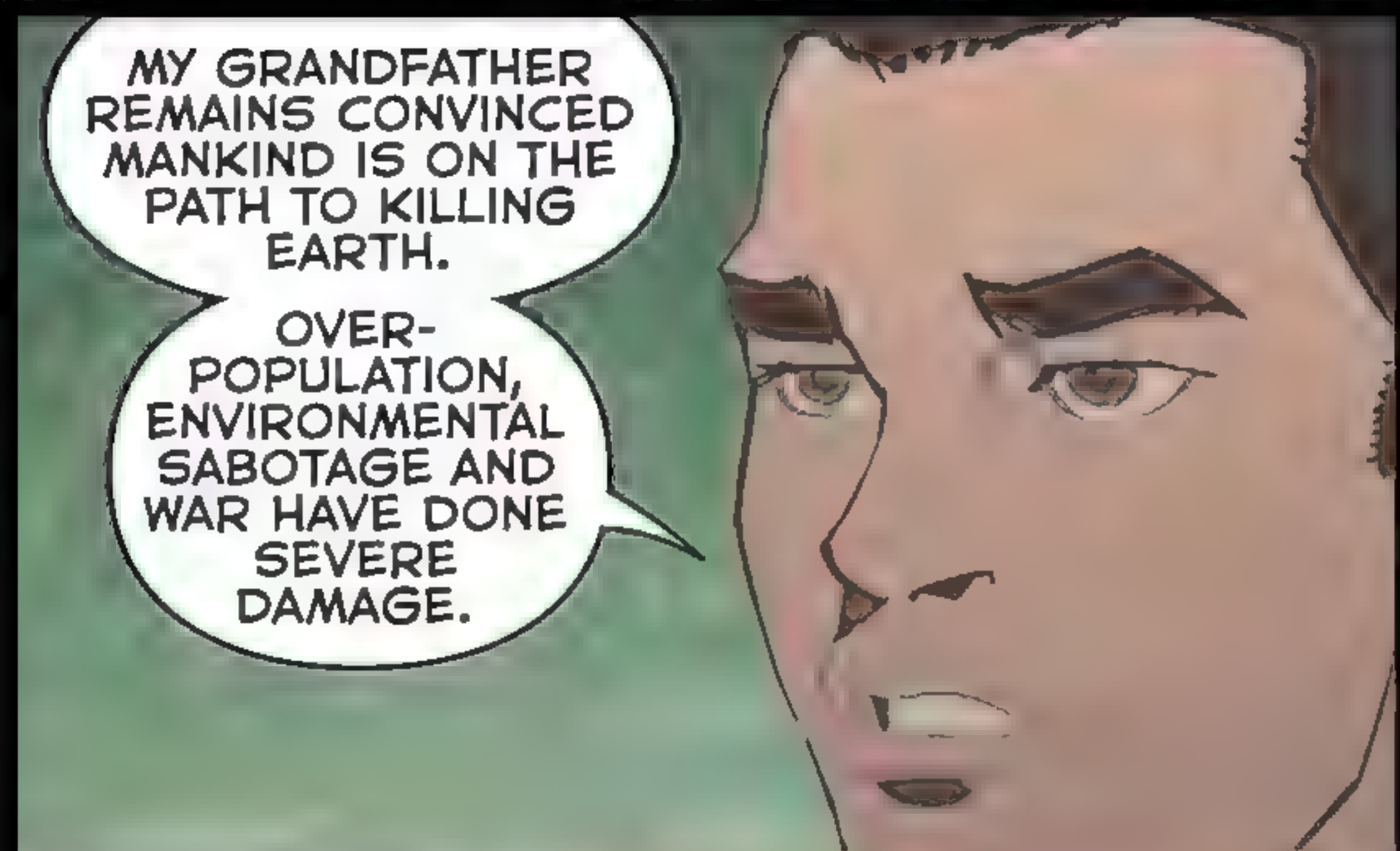


THANKS FOR COMING BACK.

THOUGHT YOU'D PUT GOTHAM BEHIND YOU.

I ENJOY EUROPE'S BREADTH OF CULTURE, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN I WOULD LET GOTHAM SUFFER.

ESPECIALLY SINCE I BELIEVE RA'S AL GHUL PLANS TO CAPITALIZE ON YOUR ABSENCE.



MY GRANDFATHER REMAINS CONVINCED MANKIND IS ON THE PATH TO KILLING EARTH.

OVER-POPULATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SABOTAGE AND WAR HAVE DONE SEVERE DAMAGE.



RATHER THAN LET MAN INCINERATE THE WORLD...

...HE WOULD FIRST ERASE MAN.

OR A GOOD PORTION OF THEM, ANYWAY.



ARE YOU HERE TO DEFEND GOTHAM OR RA'S?

I AM HERE BECAUSE YOU CAN NO LONGER PROTECT THE CITY.



WATCH ME.

WATCH YOU FAIL?

NO.



I HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO HIM, BUT THE SIGNS OF HIS ATTACK ARE OBVIOUS.

ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS US...



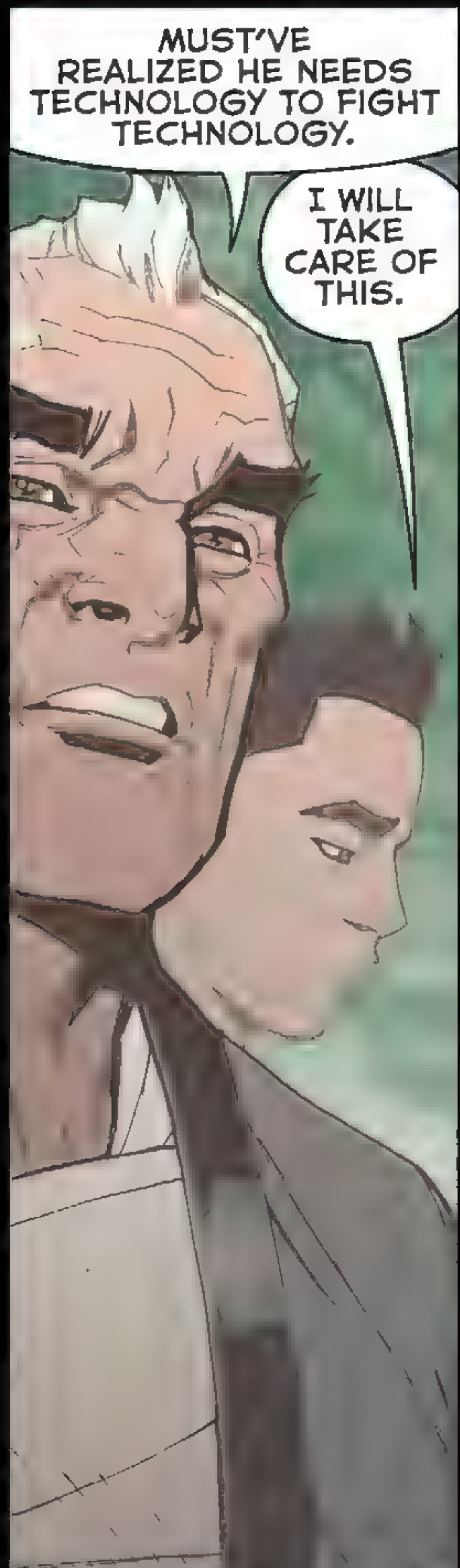
BREET

...TO KNOW.



LOOKS LIKE
THE LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS GOT
AN UPGRADE.

GRANDFATHER
HAS EMBRACED
TECHNOLOGY IN A
WAY HE HASN'T
BEFORE.



MUST'VE
REALIZED HE NEEDS
TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT
TECHNOLOGY.

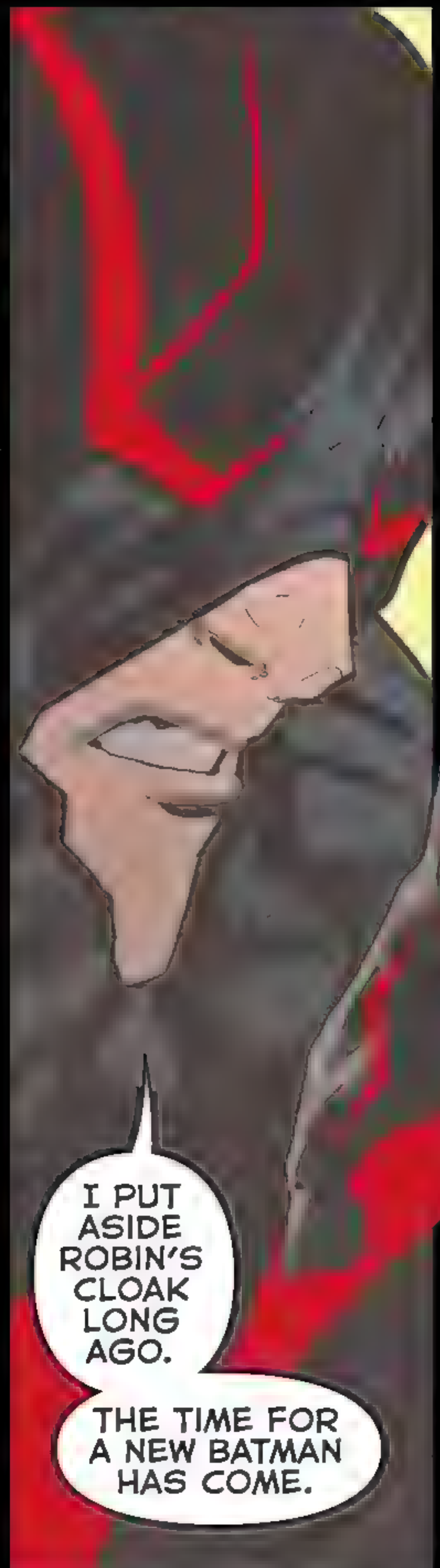
I WILL
TAKE
CARE OF
THIS.



NOT
WITH
THAT.

IT'S
DANGEROUS.
PUSHED ME
WAY OVER
THE LINE.

FATHER.



I PUT
ASIDE
ROBIN'S
CLOAK
LONG
AGO.

THE TIME FOR
A NEW BATMAN
HAS COME.



BESIDES,
THE A.I. SYSTEM
THAT COULD MAKE
ME LOSE TRACK OF
MY LIMITS DOES
NOT EXIST.

DAMIAN--!

Unfortunately, that was hardly true.

Damian went after the League with a ferocity that sent chills up my spine.

After almost four hours of combat, he'd wiped out most of Ra's' army.

Maybe it was the suit.

Maybe it was his own personality.

In any case, the suit pushed him to a point of no return.

My own son became someone I didn't recognize.

LISTEN TO ME, DAMIAN!

YOU HAVE TO STOP! COME BACK BEFORE--!

NO, FATHER.

Then... I lost contact.

When I went to the scene...

...it was over.

Everyone and everything gone...

...except the tattered remains of the suit.

Wasn't hard to understand that Ra's set the whole thing up.

He knew the suit would change Damian.

Give Ra's the opening to recruit him into the Fold.

It was the last time I ever--

DETECTIVE.



THE MASTER
KNEW YOU'D
COME.

I AM
GRATEFUL.

FOR IT
GIVES ME THE
CHANCE TO DO
WHAT MY FATHER
COULD NOT.

LET ME
GUESS. YOUR
FATHER IS--



WAS...
...UBU.

Should've picked up
on the resemblance.

How much
have I lost?

CHAK

I'm too
slow.

Weak.

THIS IS THE
MASTER'S
HOME.

TO
COME HERE
IS TO COURT
DEATH.

BY
MASTER,
YOU
MEAN...

...Damian."

YOUR
BLADE IS
GONE. NOT
MUCH YOU
CAN DO
NOW.

IF YOU
BELIEVE
THAT TO BE
TRUE...

...YOU ARE
EVEN MORE OF A
PRETENDER THAN
I THOUGHT.



I
DON'T NEED
WEAPONS.

Elevate
response.

ON IT.

NOT...

...WHEN I
CAN GET TO
YOURS.



I
MANIPULATED
CURARĒ.

WANTED
HER TO SEEK
YOU OUT.

**WANTED
THIS.**

**NOTHING..
NOTHING
WORKS!**

**MOST
OF ALL...**

**...WANTED
HIM.**

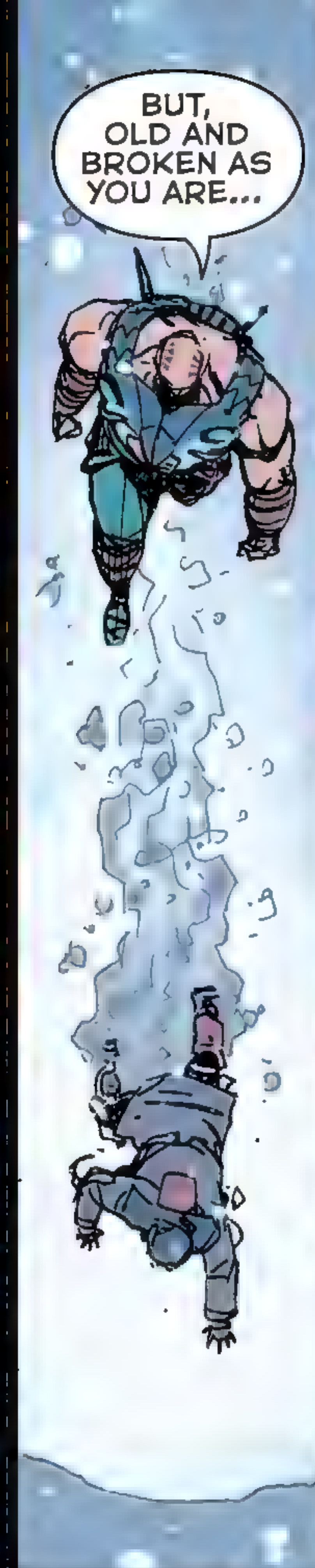
HUNH!



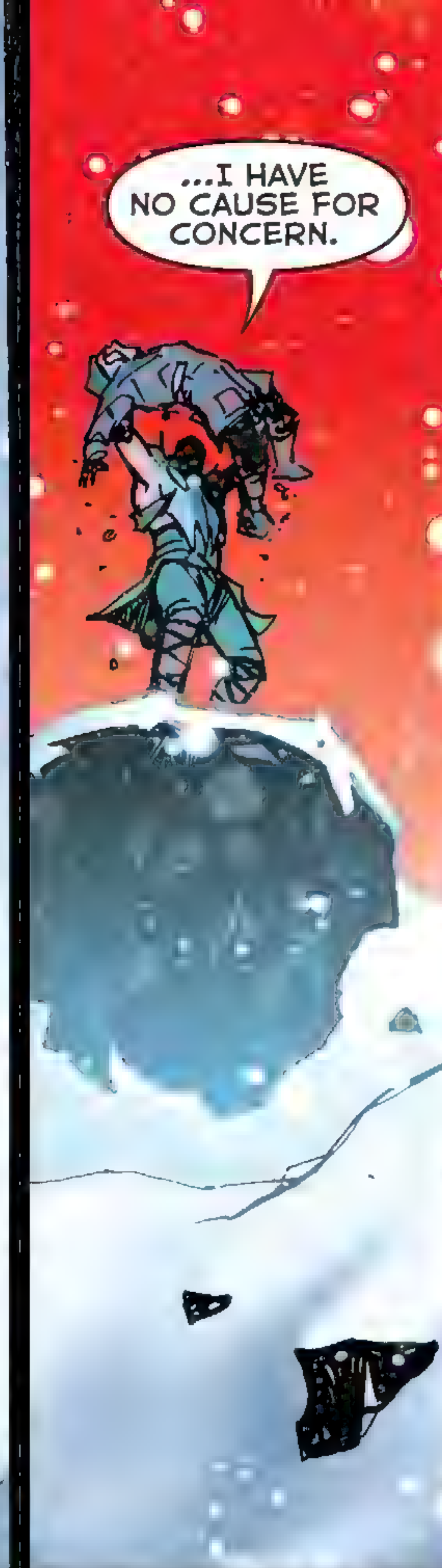
THE MASTER
SAID YOU WOULD
FIGHT BACK.



SAID I
SHOULD BE
CAREFUL.



BUT,
OLD AND
BROKEN AS
YOU ARE...



...I HAVE
NO CAUSE FOR
CONCERN.



He's
right.

I'm not at all
what I was.



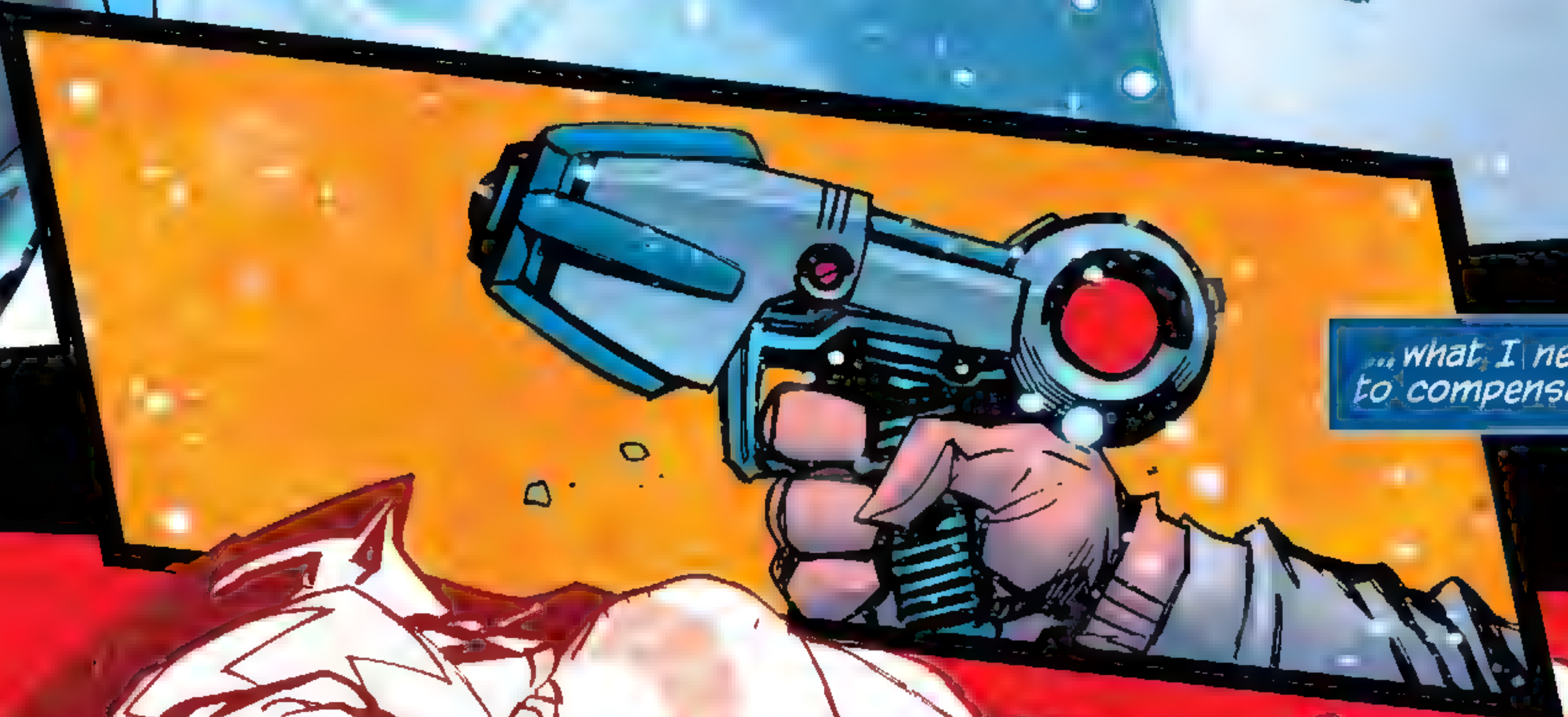
Only made
it this far
with guile.

Knowing
my limits.

My
liabilities.



And, most
of all...



...what I need
to compensate.



UHH...



One
down.

But if Damian throws the entire League of Assassins at me...

...there won't be much I can do.

Depends on what his goal is.

Exorcise some kind of grudge by beating Terry?

Does he want the suit?

Or is it as simple as coaxing me here?

If so, why the theatrics? A simple phone call would've...

NO.



DAMIAN!

WELCOME,
FATHER.

YOU ARE
JUST IN
TIME...

...TO SEE THE
PRETENDER
DIE.



张
BCHANG
Meiolo





FATHER.

I
IMAGINED YOU
TALLER.

Brash.

Defiant.

Self-confident
to a fault.

When I think of what
Damian was like when
I first met him...

...those are
the traits I
remember most.

RISE OF THE DEMON

PART 5

DAN
JURGENS
WRITER

BERNARD
CHANG
ART

MARCELO
MAIOLO
COLOR

TRAVIS
LANHAM
LETTERS

CHANG & MAIOLO: COVER
ROB LEVIN: ASSISTANT EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR

Talia raised him secretly, hiding his existence from me for years.

Ever the daughter of Ra's al Ghul, she was molding him to lead the League of Assassins.

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD, DAMIAN.

FASTER.

When she finally introduced us...

...he was on his way to being a monster.

At first, Damian was drawn to his grandfather's world.

Eventually, I won that battle and hoped the day would come when he'd take my place.

But he left with Ra's, never to return.

I passed the mantle of Batman to Terry McGinnis.

My true son was gone, but one I'd come to think of as a son took his place.

MCGINNIS.

YOUR TIME HAS COME.

Though it may not last the day.



DAMIAN!

DON'T!

CHUFF



FATHER.

YOU SHOULD
KNOW I WOULDN'T KILL
A COMPROMISED, WEAK
OPPONENT.



ESPECIALLY
ONE SO
INFERIOR.

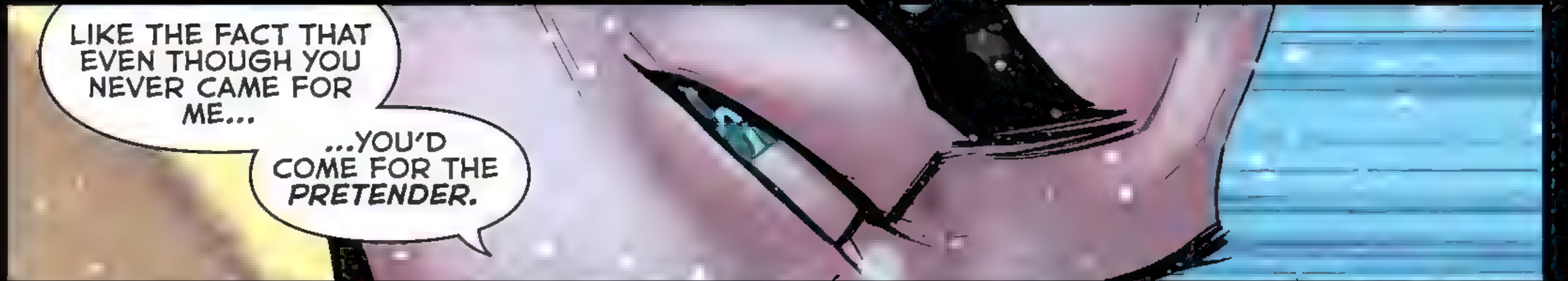
THERE IS NO
SATISFACTION
IN KILLING A
PRETENDER.



HOW
WOULD I
KNOW?

THE FACT THAT
YOU'RE HERE MAKES
ME REALIZE THAT I
BARELY KNOW YOU
ANYMORE.

I STILL KNOW A
GREAT DEAL ABOUT
YOU THOUGH.



LIKE THE FACT THAT
EVEN THOUGH YOU
NEVER CAME FOR
ME...

...YOU'D
COME FOR THE
PRETENDER.

I WANTED
TO COME FOR
YOU BUT I
COULDN'T.

I
WAS--

HELD
CAPTIVE BY
TERMINAL.

HELPLESS
AS HE DRAINED
YOUR FUNDS.

THANKS
FOR THE
HELP.

SO LONG AS
MONEY REMAINED
IN YOUR ACCOUNTS,
I KNEW YOU WERE
STILL ALIVE.

I KNEW THE
PRETENDER
WOULD EVENTUALLY
COME TO YOUR
RESCUE.

IS THAT
WHAT THIS
IS ALL
ABOUT?

JEALOUSY?

UH...

...rrrrrebooting of
system complete.
Filters for sonic
interference engaged.

INCONCEIVABLE.

THOUGH I AM
STRUCK BY YOUR
LOYALTY TO SOMEONE
SO INFERIOR.

Operational
efficiency and
power levels
at 72 percent
due to exterior
suppression
technology.

You are cleared to
engage the enemy.

INFERIOR.



I'LL
SHOW YOU
INFERIOR.

By the age of ten,
Damian's command
of the martial arts
and combat skills
were beyond
description.

Against anyone
else, Terry's
battle suit would
give him the edge.

PHOOOF

To win, Terry will
need Damian to
make some kind
of mistake.

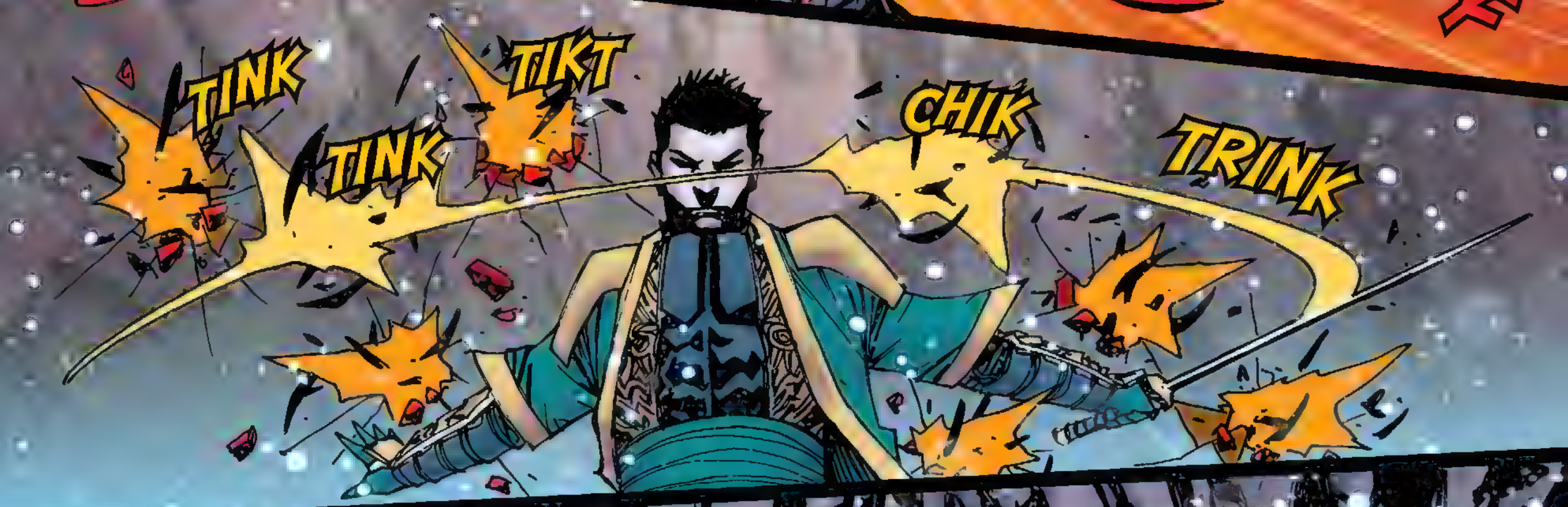
FEELING
GOOD
BECAUSE YOU
WON ROUND
ONE?

There is
virtually no
chance of that
happening.

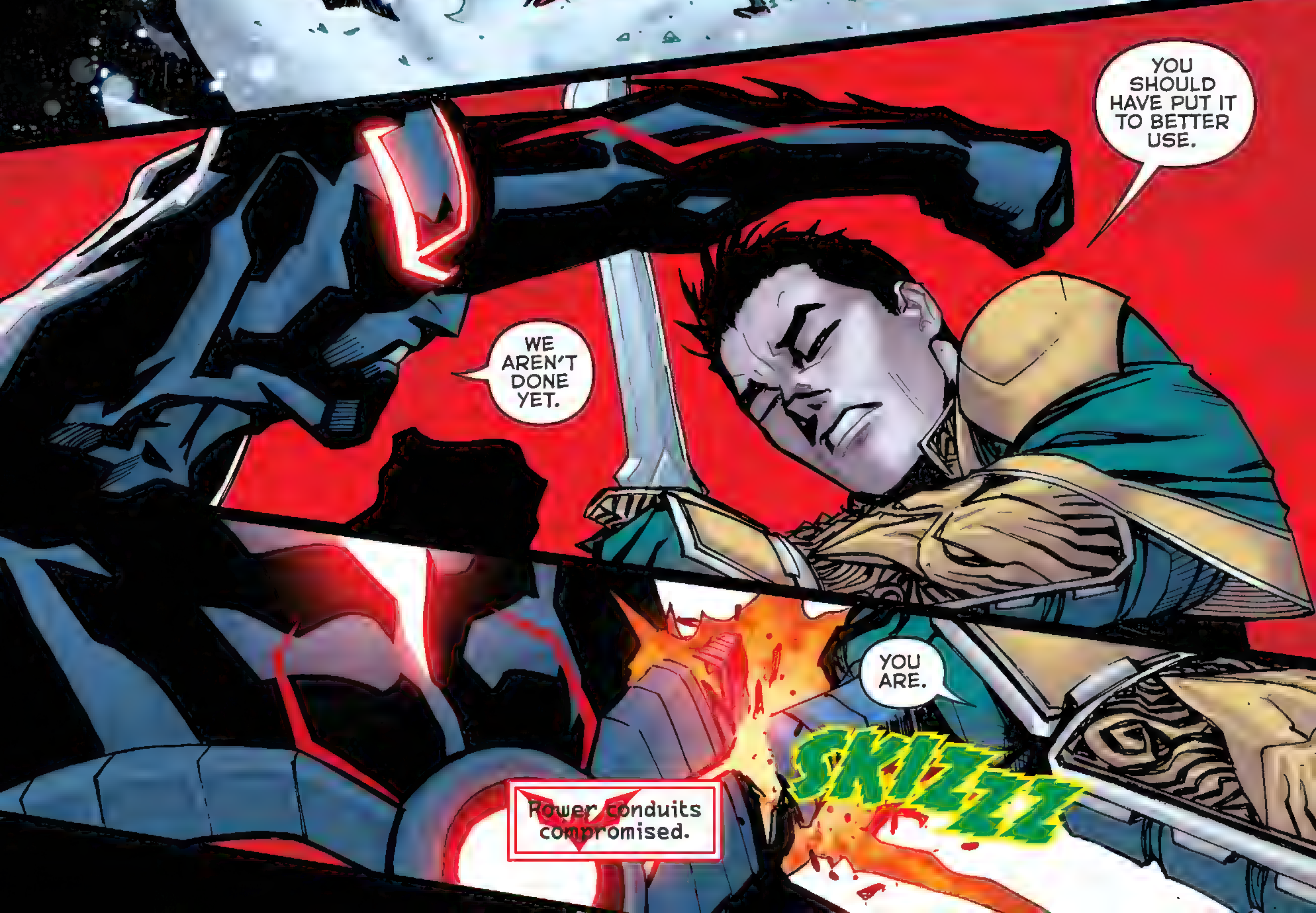


EMBRACE
IT.

IT'S
THE ONLY
ONE YOU'LL
GET.



YOU HAD
THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE,
PRETENDER.



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE PUT IT
TO BETTER
USE.

WE
AREN'T
DONE
YET.

YOU
ARE.

Power conduits
compromised.

SKIFF



THIS DOESN'T NEED TO HAPPEN!



OF COURSE IT DOES.



IN FACT, IT'S LONG OVERDUE.

KRANNG!

As impossible as it seems, Damian has gotten better since I saw him.

His speed, agility and ability to counter whatever Terry throws at him defies description.



He has surpassed me at my best...

WHUD

...and that's what scares me.



If Damian pushes it to the breaking point...

...makes it look like Terry can't possibly win...

...the suit's A.I. will take control.

GET UP.

Force Terry to his feet...

NNH...

...and back into the ring.

Deadly Force restrictions waived.

JUST AS I EXPECTED.
AH. THE BLADES.

Of course he did. He wore the suit.

K
L
I
K

But Damian still thinks he's fighting Terry.

GRAHHH!

B
R
E
E
K
E
E

B
R
E
E
K
E
E



The reality...

...is that he's fighting a machine.

**BREEE...
KANING**

**KR-KR-KR
KREEE**

GYAH!

SHRIIP



GOOD.

YOU HAVE
GIVEN YOURSELF
OVER TO THE SUIT,
PRETENDER.



THAT FREES
ME FROM HAVING
TO HOLD BACK.

ALLOWS ME
TO UTILIZE ALL
MY WEAPONS.

COME
TO ME, OLD
FRIEND.



REEEYUNK!

GUH!

YOU HAVE
WORK TO
DO.

GOLIATH!

The last of the
bat dragons.

Damian was a
child when he
took him in.

He'll protect his master at all costs.

UH...

Enemy analyzed.

Response determined.

SNORFF!

Engage concussive pulse blasts.

REEEEE--!

REEEE--

--YUNK!

BECAUSE HE WAS FIGHTING THE SUIT'S A.I. AS WELL. YOU KNOW THAT!

THE PRETENDER LEFT HIMSELF OPEN TO AN ATTACK FROM THE REAR, FATHER.

TRULY AN INADEQUATE REPLACEMENT.

YOU BLAME THE SUIT FOR TOO MUCH, FATHER.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

PHOOOF



YOU ORCHESTRATED ALL OF THIS, DAMIAN.

YOU BROUGHT US HERE FOR A REASON.

WHY?!



C'MON, MAX! THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO GET A LOOK AT TERRY!

WE'RE GETTING HEAVY INTERFERENCE FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE, MATT.

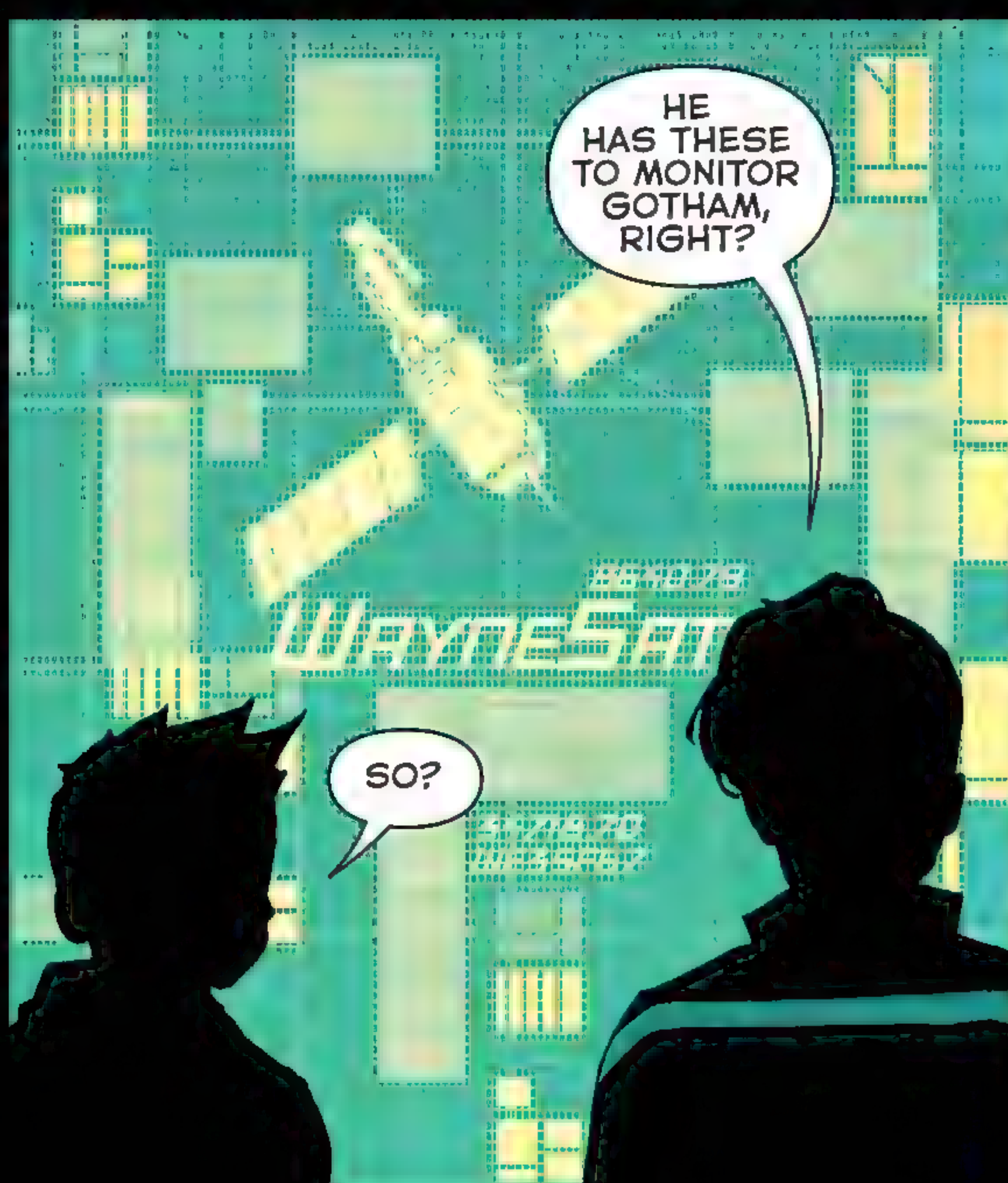
I CAN PINPOINT THE BATMOBILE BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.



UNLESS...

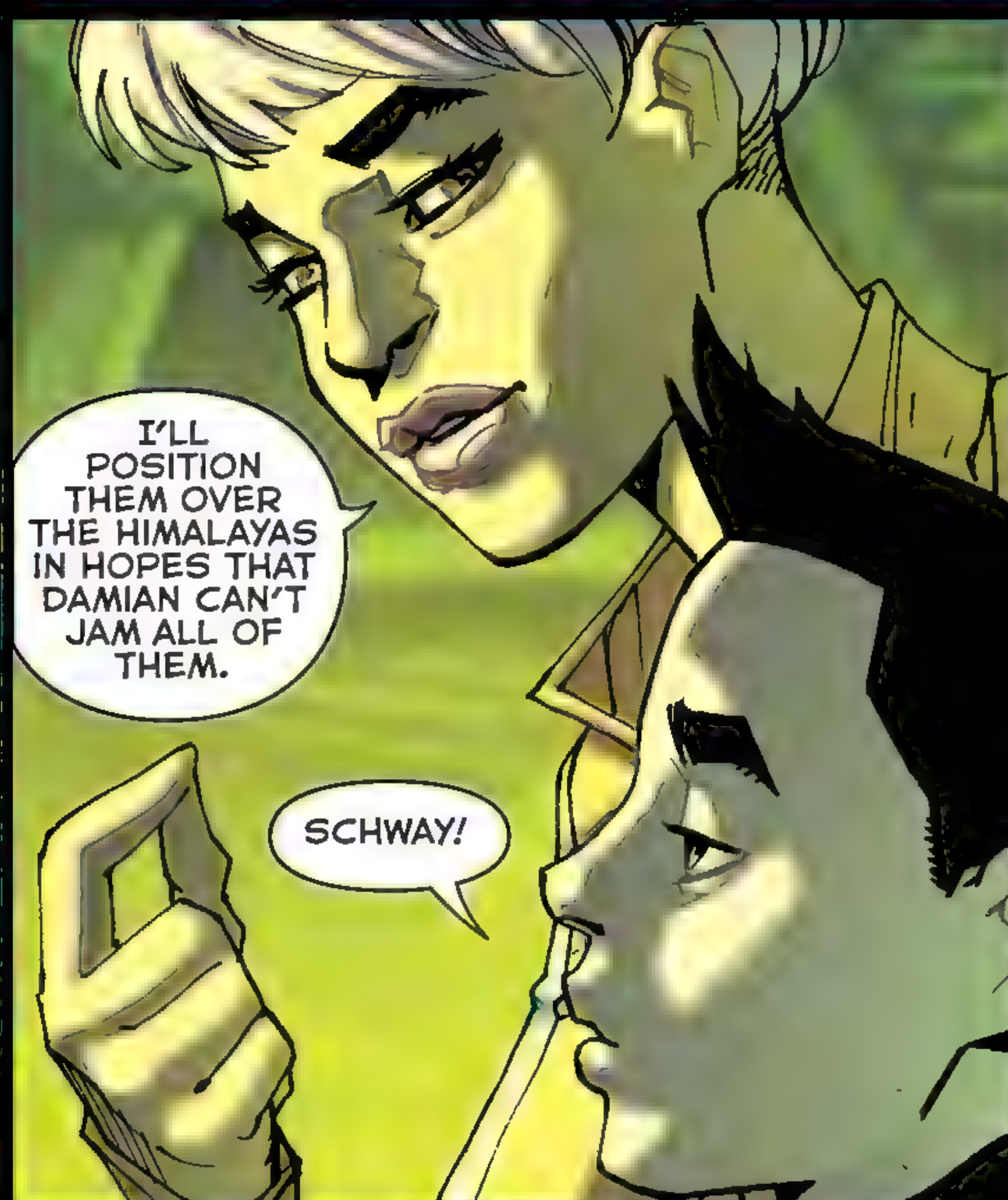
YOU HAVE AN IDEA? WHAT IS IT?

BRUCE'S SATELLITES.



HE HAS THESE TO MONITOR GOTHAM, RIGHT?

SO?



I'LL POSITION THEM OVER THE HIMALAYAS IN HOPES THAT DAMIAN CAN'T JAM ALL OF THEM.

SCHWAY!

YOU ARE
HERE OF
YOUR OWN
FREE WILL,
FATHER.

THOUGH I
WONDER WHY
YOU WAITED
SO LONG.

**YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
LEFT WITHOUT
SAYING A
WORD.**

I THOUGHT
YOU'D COME TO
YOUR SENSES
AND COME
BACK.

WHEN
YOU DIDN'T, I
ASSUMED IT WAS
BECAUSE THE
SUIT--

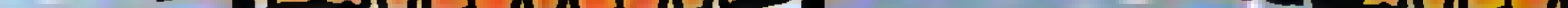
CHANGED ME?

LEFT ME A
CRAZED HERMIT
BENT ON EARTH'S
DESTRUCTION?

AS
THOUGH THE
ONLY REASON
I'D LEAVE IS
BECAUSE YOUR
FLAWED SUIT
DESTROYED MY
ABILITY TO
REASON?

SUCH A
THING WOULD
MAKE MY
ABSENCE MORE
PALATABLE.

KEEP
YOU FROM
REALIZING
THAT I HAVE
CHANGED.



**BUT
THE TRUTH
OF IT ALL...**

...IS
THAT I LEFT
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO.

"As for not returning, I did come back once.

"It was clear that I should not have bothered."

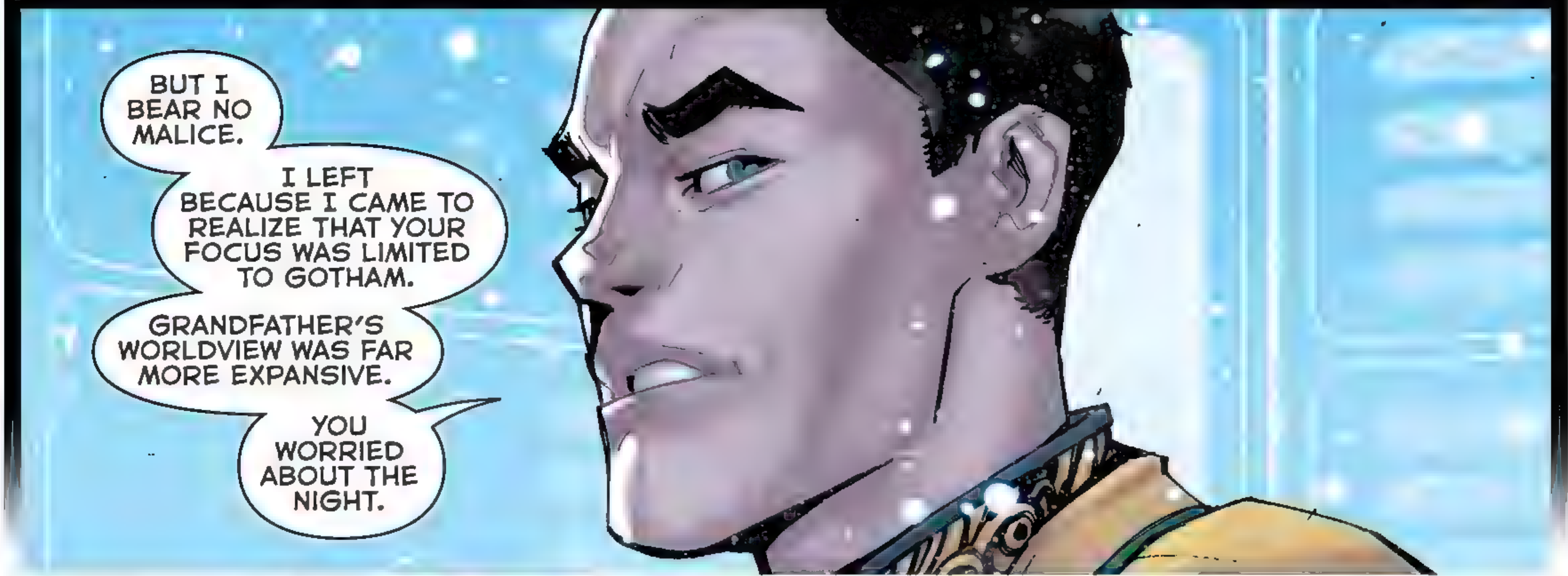
BECAUSE
OF *TERRY*?

I SEARCHED
FOR YOU, DAMIAN.
EVERYWHERE. BUT
I COULDN'T--

**DON'T LIE
TO YOURSELF,
FATHER.**

THE GREAT
BATMAN CAN
FIND ANYONE
HE WANTS.

**YOU
GAVE UP.**



BUT I
BEAR NO
MALICE.

I LEFT
BECAUSE I CAME TO
REALIZE THAT YOUR
FOCUS WAS LIMITED
TO GOTHAM.

GRANDFATHER'S
WORLDVIEW WAS FAR
MORE EXPANSIVE.

YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
NIGHT.



"Ra's al Ghul
focused on
the future.



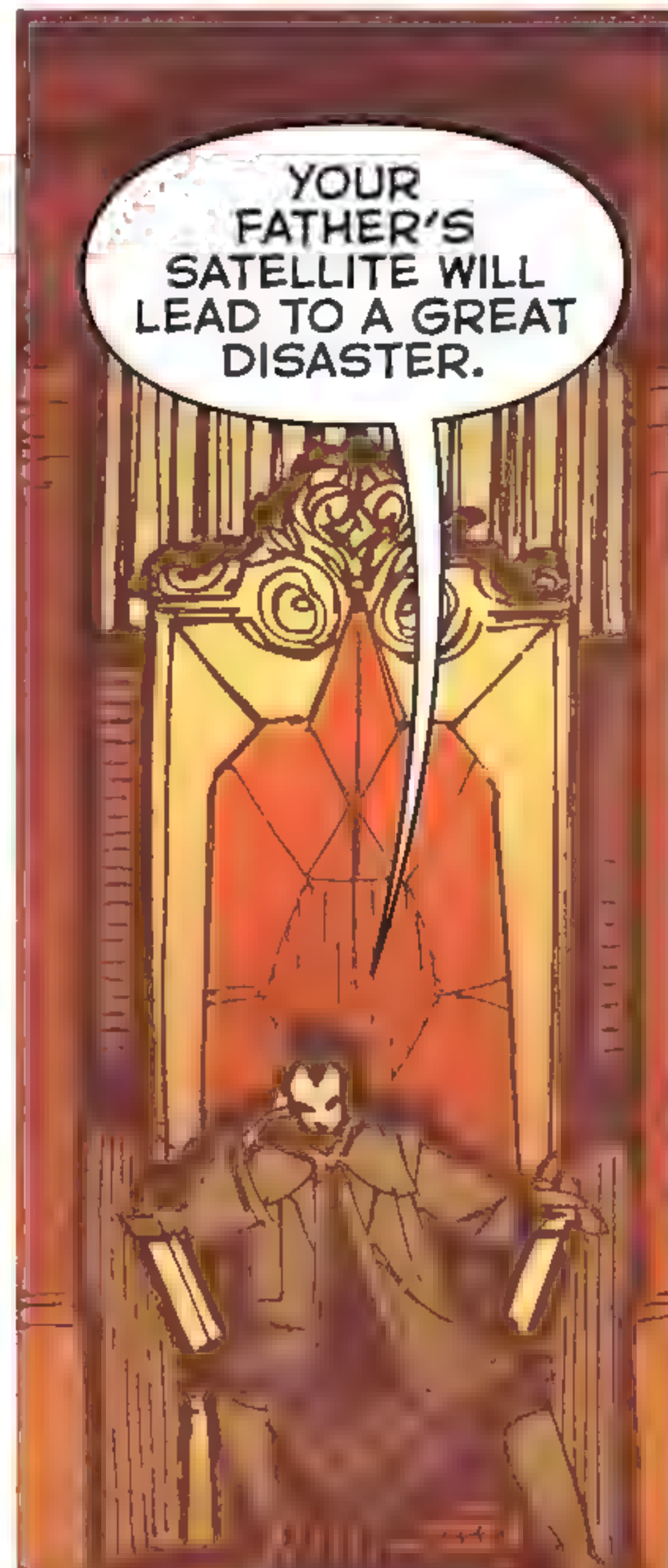
"He asked me
to join him in
order to secure
Earth's destiny.



"Grandfather
needed an ally
for another
reason.

"He had
regenerated
himself in the
Lazarus Pit so
often that it
could not be
done again.

"His time as
an immortal
would end.



YOUR
FATHER'S
SATELLITE WILL
LEAD TO A GREAT
DISASTER.



"He talked of
your creation--
Brother Eye."



ITS ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
WILL EVENTUALLY
RECOGNIZE OUR
IMPERFECTIONS AS
A BIOLOGICAL
CONTAMINANT...

...AND
ERADICATE
US ALL.

WE MUST
PREPARE.



THINK OF
THE *IRONY*,
FATHER.

EARTH'S
GREATEST
PERIL WAS NOT
THE WORK
OF RA'S AL
GHUL...

...BUT
OF YOU.



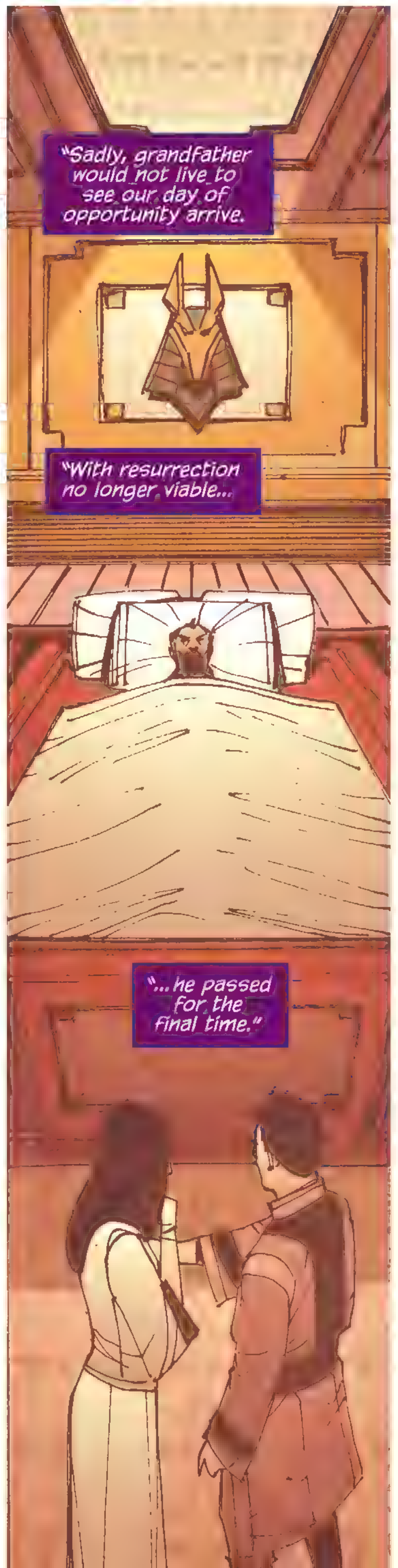
"Grandfather
allowed me to
do what was
necessary.

"I began the
long, slow process
of converting this
enclave into one
that reflected the
modern world.



"We outfitted it with
the most advanced tech
available, though would not
activate it until after the
Eye was addressed.

"We hid here and
waited, undetectable
to instrumentation
of all kinds.



"Sadly, grandfather
would not live to
see our day of
opportunity arrive.

"With resurrection
no longer viable...

"...he passed
for the
final time."

"Strangely enough,
as we said
good-bye..."

"...the skies
opened to reveal
the invaders."

"Hordes of
cyborgs
looking to
conquer
Earth."

"The world
was about
to burn..."

...WHILE I
WATCHED FROM THE
SIDELINES.

HAD THEY
WON, I'D
HAVE MOVED
AGAINST
THEM.

HUMANITY
STOPPED
THEM.

THOUGH
EARTH WAS
SOFTENED UP FOR
PURIFICATION.

YOU
WATCHED
WHILE
PEOPLE
DIED?

I WATCHED
BECAUSE I KNEW
RA'S AL GHUL
WAS RIGHT.

EARTH WAS
DYING--ITS POPULATION
DRAGGING IT INTO A
CESSPOOL OF FILTH.

NATURE WAS
DEFEATED--NO LONGER
ABLE TO COMPENSATE FOR
THE HUMAN PARASITES
THAT WERE CHOKING
THE PLANET.

RECONFIGURATION
IS THE ONLY ANSWER.

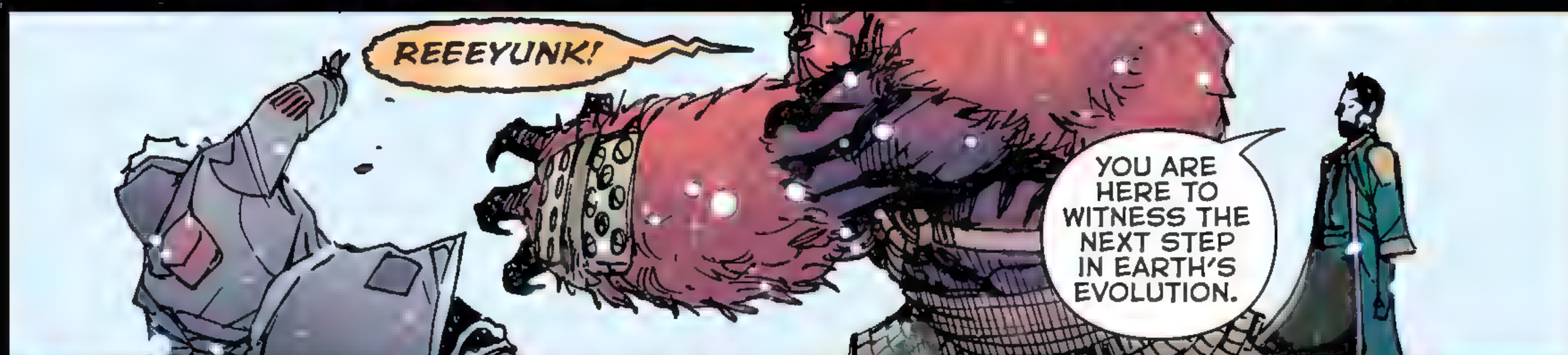
RECON--?!
DEAR GOD!



I WON'T LET YOU
LAUNCH THOSE
MISSILES.

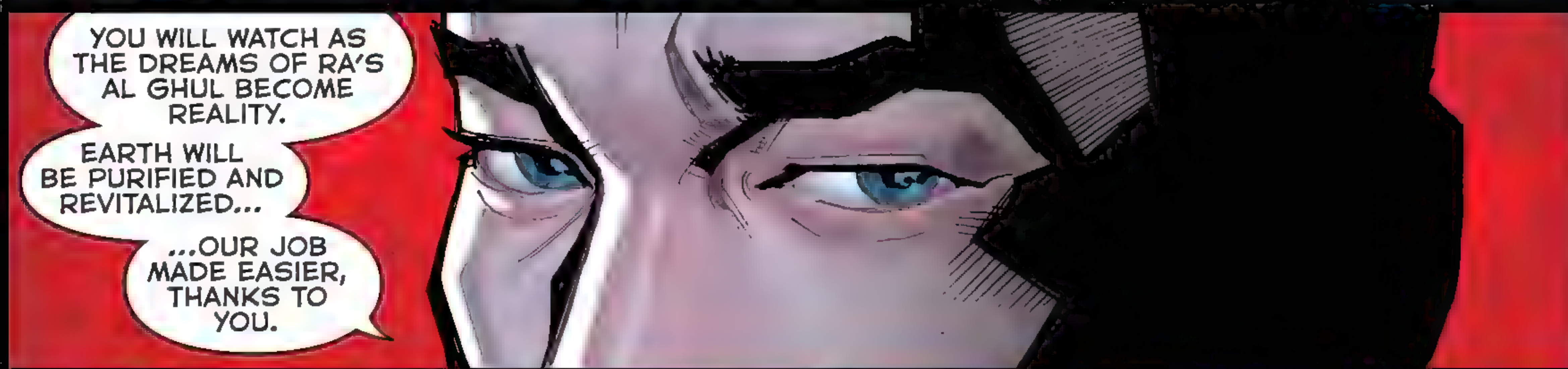


IF I THOUGHT
YOU CAPABLE OF
STOPPING ME, I WOULD
NOT HAVE BROUGHT
YOU HERE.



REEEYUNK!

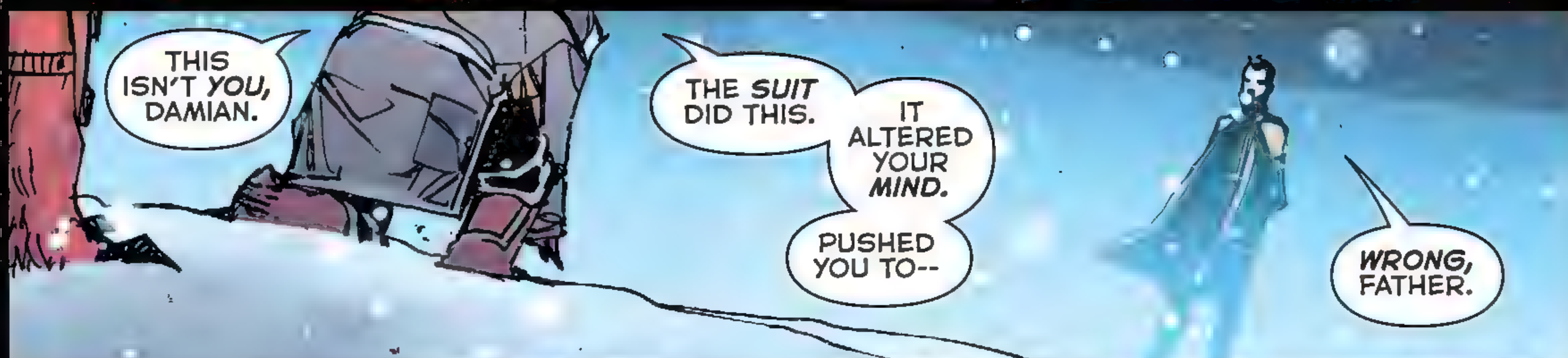
YOU ARE
HERE TO
WITNESS THE
NEXT STEP
IN EARTH'S
EVOLUTION.



YOU WILL WATCH AS
THE DREAMS OF RA'S
AL GHUL BECOME
REALITY.

EARTH WILL
BE PURIFIED AND
REVITALIZED...

...OUR JOB
MADE EASIER,
THANKS TO
YOU.



THIS
ISN'T YOU,
DAMIAN.

THE *SUIT*
DID THIS.

IT
ALTERED
YOUR
MIND.

PUSHED
YOU TO--

WRONG,
FATHER.



I AM
EXACTLY
WHAT I WAS
RAISED
TO BE.



IF IT
IS THE
SUIT...



...YOU SHOULD BE THANKING IT.

GOLIATH!

TERRY!
DON'T--!



HAVE TO SAY, I ADMIRE YOUR RUTHLESSNESS.

ARROO!



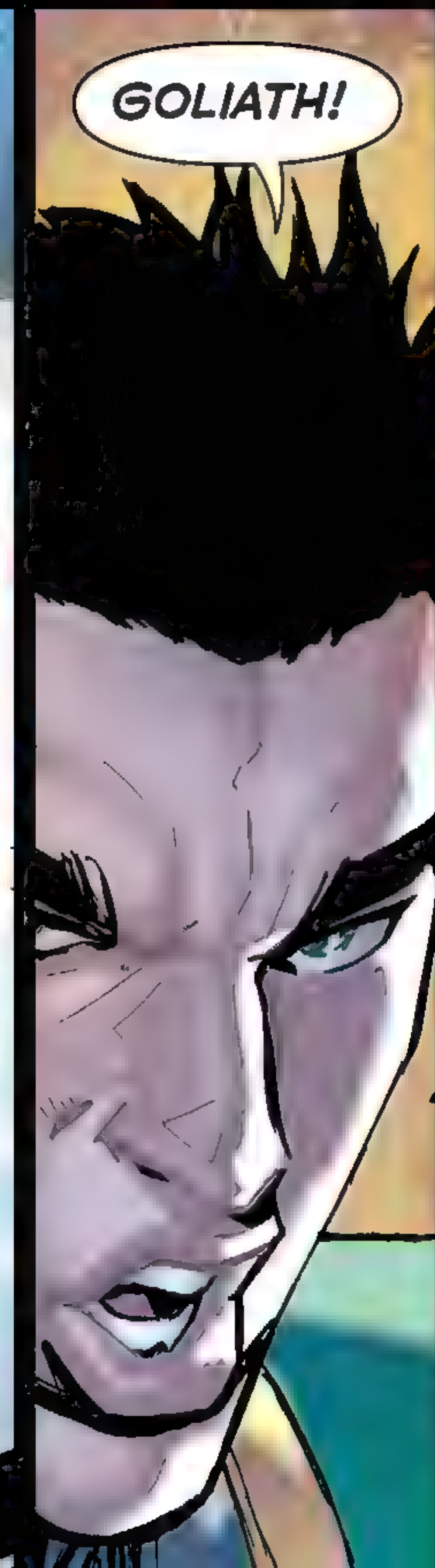
YOU SEE A JOB THAT NEEDS DOING--NGH.

RR000--
--00--



AND YOU DO IT.
NO MATTER THE COST.

--0000--



GOLIATH!



SO MUCH FOR YOUR PET.



IT'S
YOUR TURN
NOW.





BCHANG
Mao

DECADES FROM NOW.
THE HIMALAYAS

YOU
KILLED
GOLIATH.

FOR
THAT...

...YOU
MUST
DIE!

My son,
Damian...

...against the
young man I've
come to think
of as a son...

...Terry
McGinnis.

Batman.

Terry's battle suit is equipped with an A.I. system, installed to ensure mission success.

After that, its priorities are victory and survival.

Nothing else matters.

That system has pushed Terry aside to take control.

Their bond was created decades ago when Damian was just a child and took in Goliath.

His death has thrown Damian into a blind rage.

DAN JURGENS WRITER
BERNARD CHANG ART
MARCELO MAIOLO COLORS
TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERS

CHANG & MAIOLO: COVER
ROB LEVIN: ASSISTANT EDITOR
JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR

RISE OF THE DEMON: CONCLUSION

And end up like this poor guy.

HM.

Neither will back down.

They'll fight to the death.

I wonder...

PSSSH

At this point, the best I can hope for is that one survives the day.

Both?

No chance.

MY TRAINING MAKES ME UNBEATABLE.

SWIT



MIGHT WANT TO RECONSIDER.

THE SUIT ENHANCES YOUR SPEED AND STRENGTH.

WHOOM



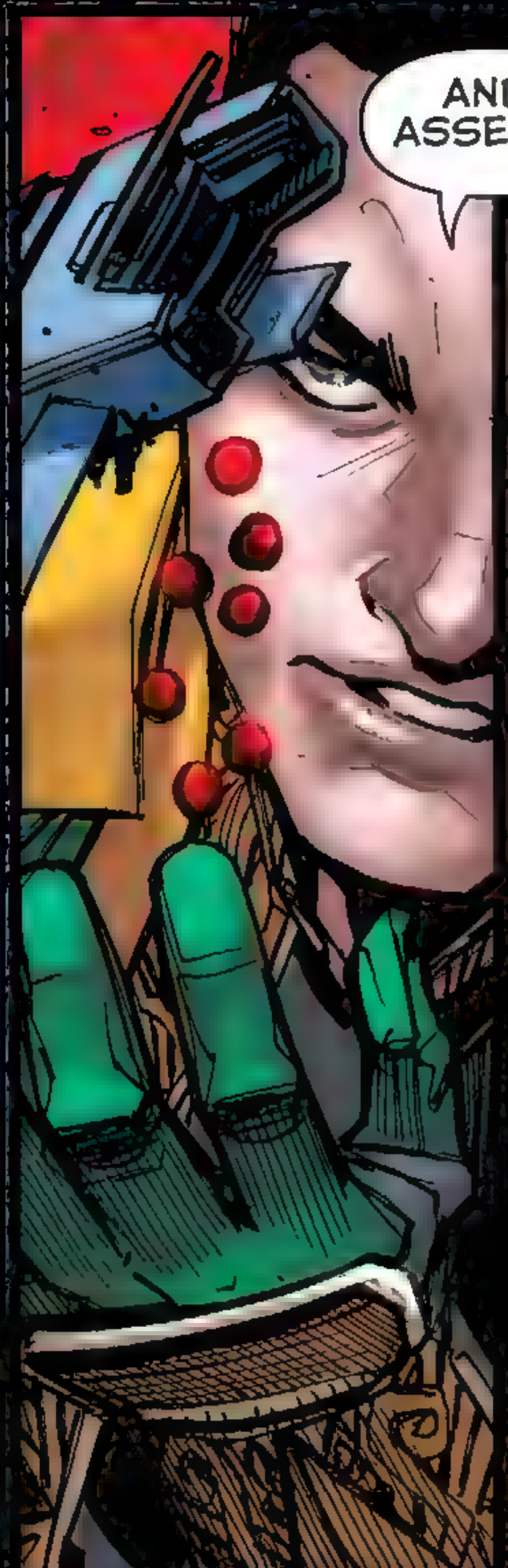
BUT I WORE IT AS WELL.



I KNOW ITS SECRETS.



ITS WEAKNESSES.



AND ASSETS.



PLIK



As if that weren't enough to worry about, these ICBMs look ready to launch.

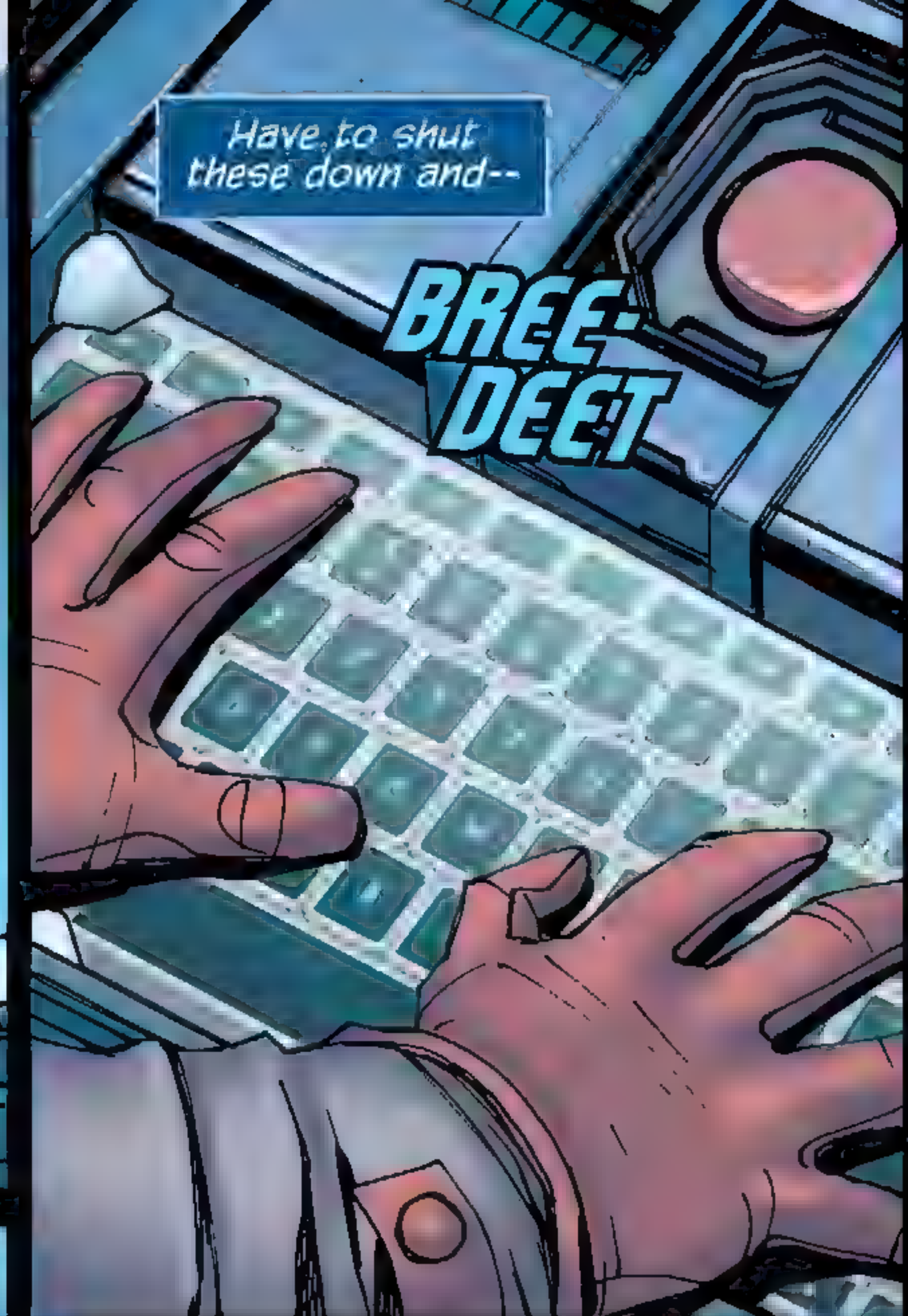
Armed, too.

Damian would actually use them?



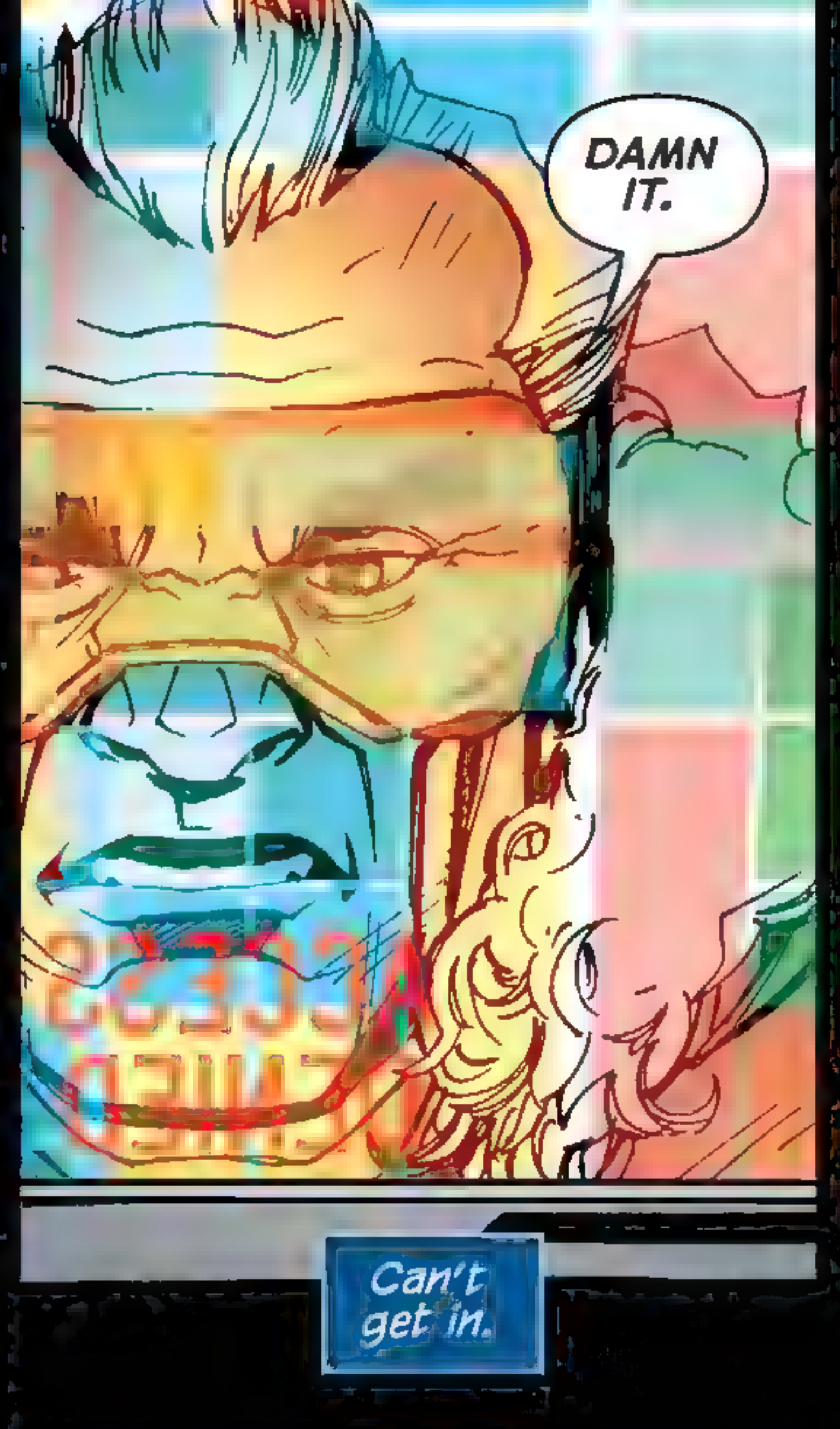
I hoped he was bluffing.

That this was a show of force and nothing more.



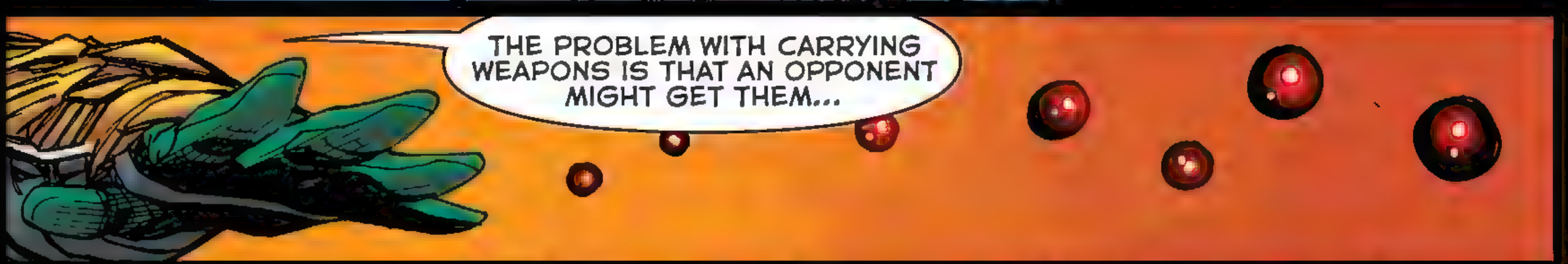
Have to shut these down and--

BREE-DEET



DAMN IT.

Can't get in.



THE PROBLEM WITH CARRYING WEAPONS IS THAT AN OPPONENT MIGHT GET THEM...



...TO USE AGAINST YOU.

BWHOOOM

Alert level red.

Systems... BRRZZZ...



... failing... BRRZZZ!

... levels down to... KRRRTZZ... 32%.

logicck KKKRRTZZ----

PRETENDER.



I TOLD
YOU TO STOP
CALLING ME
THAT!



SUIT MIGHT BE
WEAKENED...

...BUT STILL
HAS THE JUICE
TO PUT YOU
DOWN.



Used to know all of
Damian's passwords
and formulas for
constructing them.

Now...
nothing.

OLD
MAN.



YOU
LEFT
ME FOR
DEAD.

KORU.



YES.

BECAUSE
OF YOU, MY
FATHER DIED
A DEFEATED
MAN.

THE
GREAT UBU
DESERVED
BETTER!



YOUR
CONSTANT VICTORIES
CAUSED THE LEAGUE
OF ASSASSINS TO
SHUN HIM.

DESPAIR
GNAWED AT THE
MAN...



...UNTIL HE
SOUGHT TO REGAIN
SOME SHRED OF
HONOR...

...BY
TAKING
HIS OWN
LIFE.



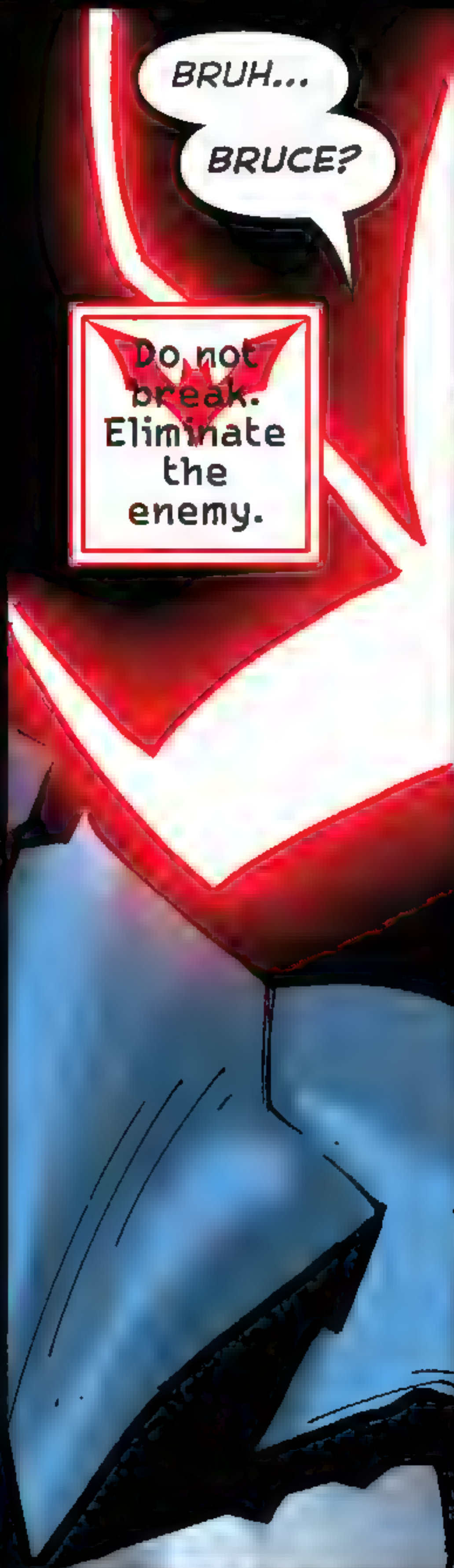
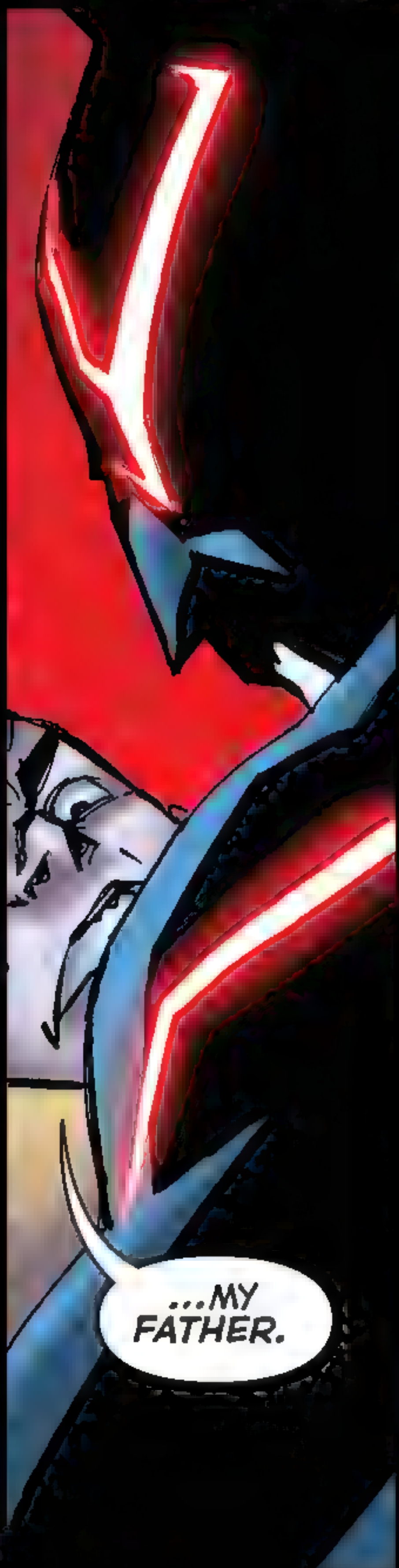
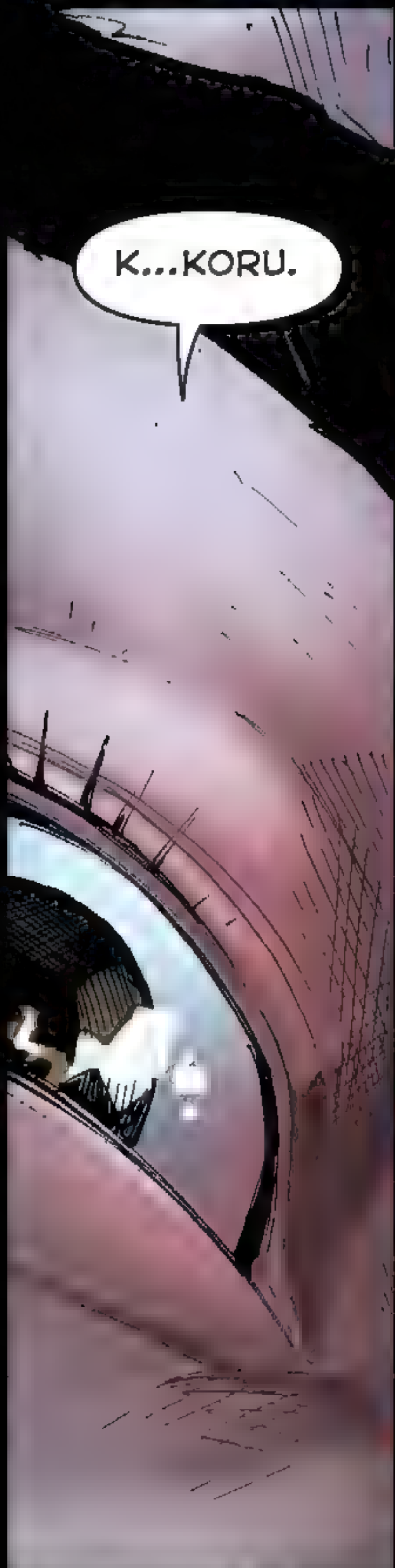
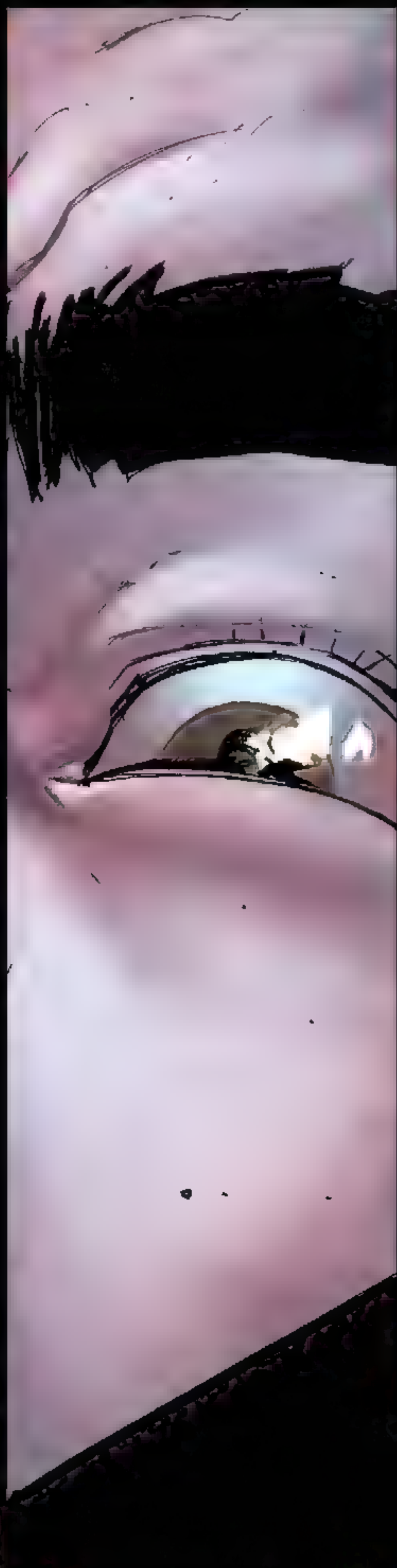
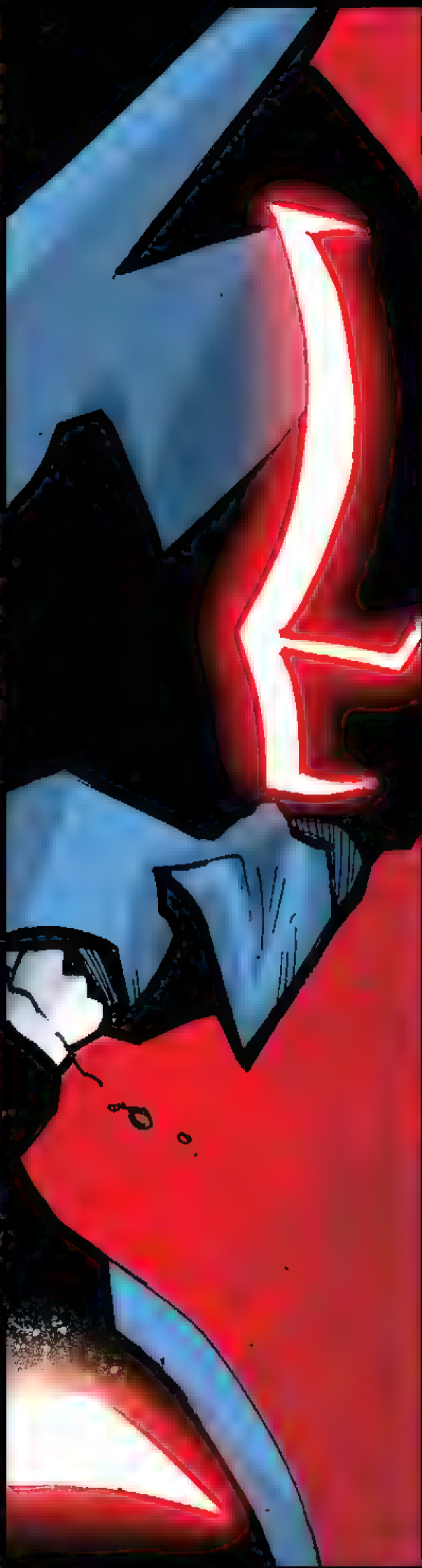
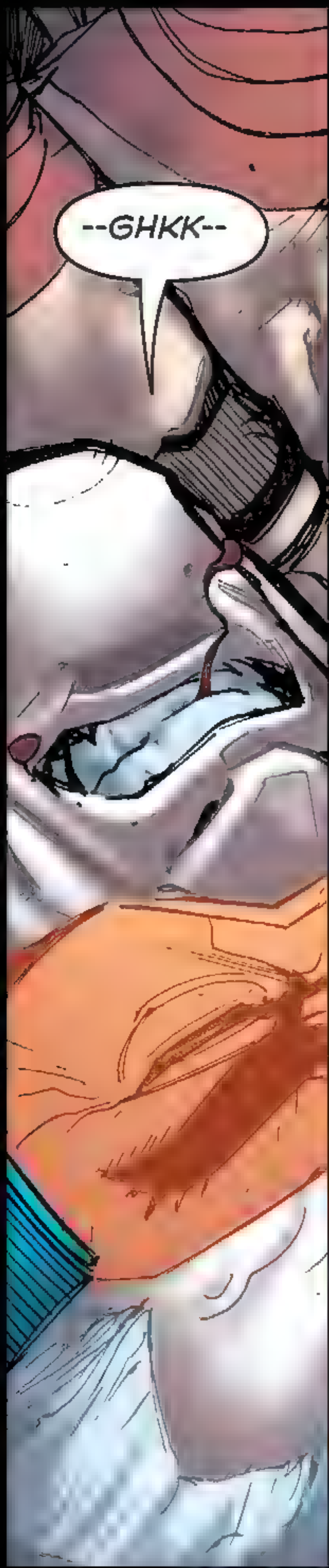
YOU
WILL NOT
DO THAT...

...OR
ANYTHING
ELSE...



...TO
ANYONE...

...EVER
AGAIN.





I DO NOT CARE IF HE IS YOUR FATHER.

HE DIES!

WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER TO STAND DOWN...

UH!

...YOU WILL STAND DOWN!

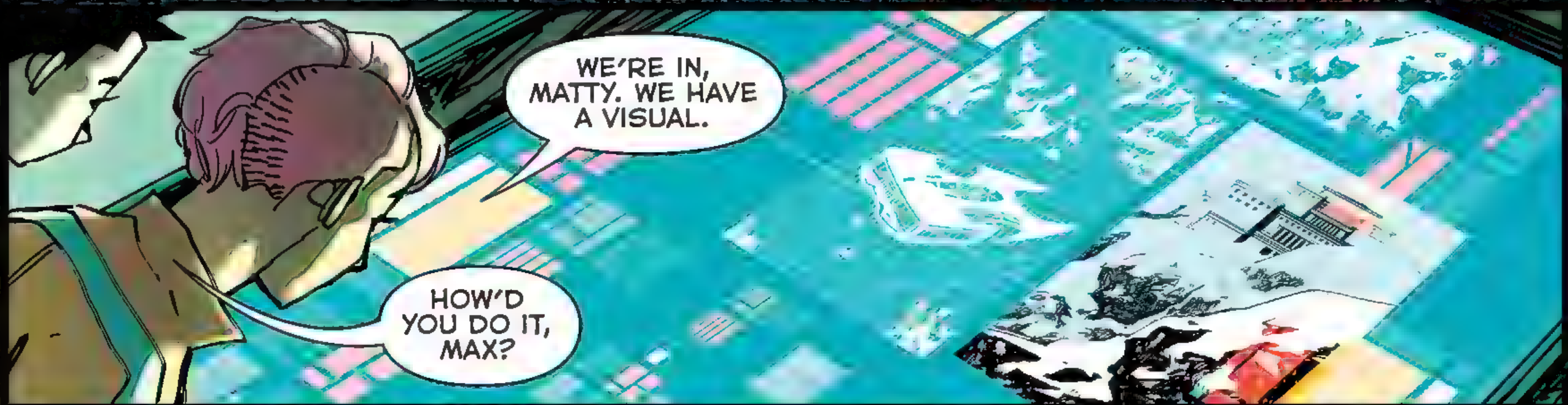


BRUCE! ARE YOU OKAY?

ignoring...
RRZZZ...
him.

THE MASK.

GET IT OFF, BEFORE...



WE'RE IN, MATTY. WE HAVE A VISUAL.

HOW'D YOU DO IT, MAX?



FINALLY GOT THE WAYNE SATELLITES RIGHT OVER THE AREA.

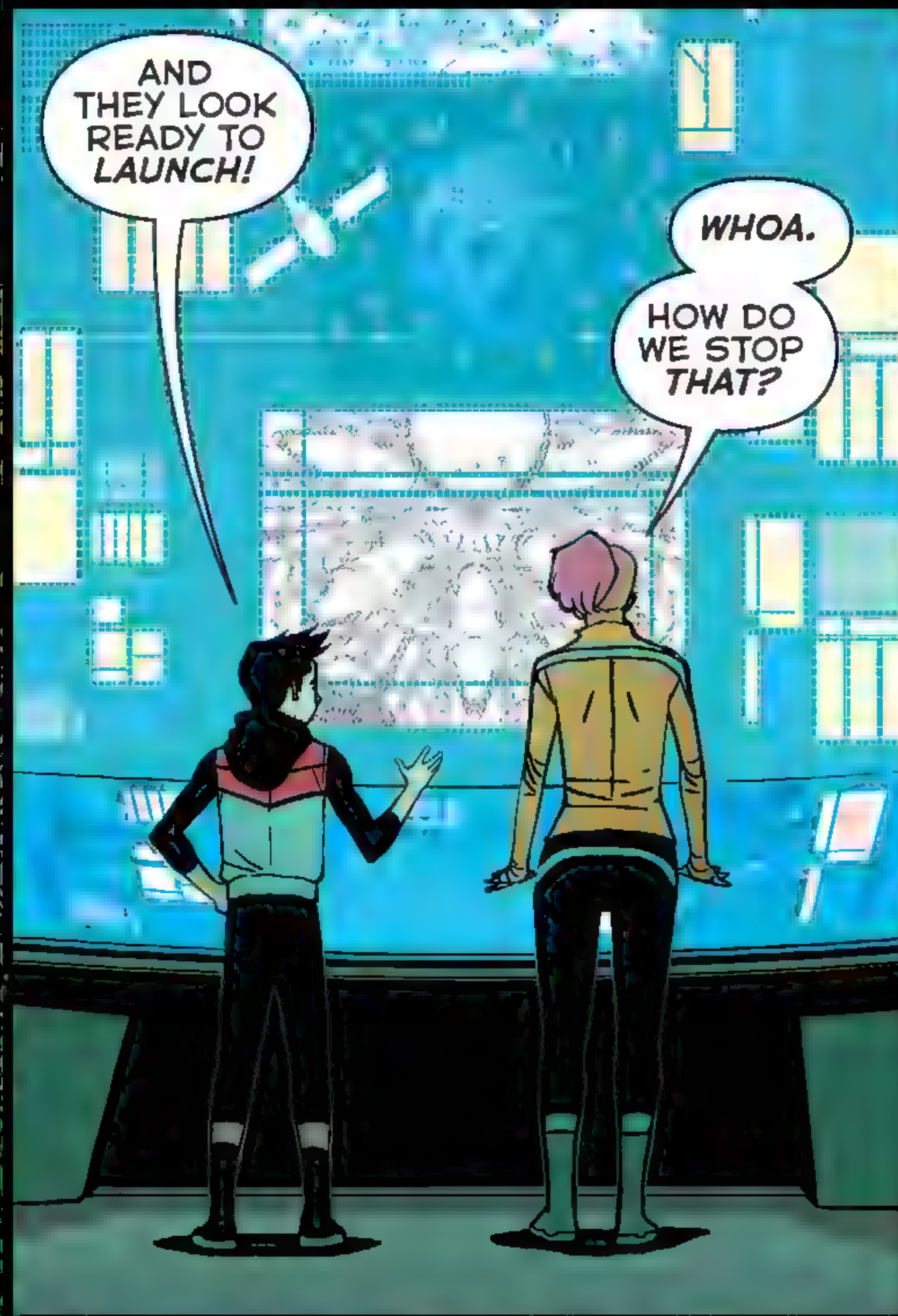
THE TECH BRUCE INSTALLED IN THOSE THINGS IS *MADE* TO HACK SYSTEMS.

SCHWAY MOVE.



UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION IS EVEN WORSE THAN WE FEARED.

INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.



AND THEY LOOK READY TO LAUNCH!

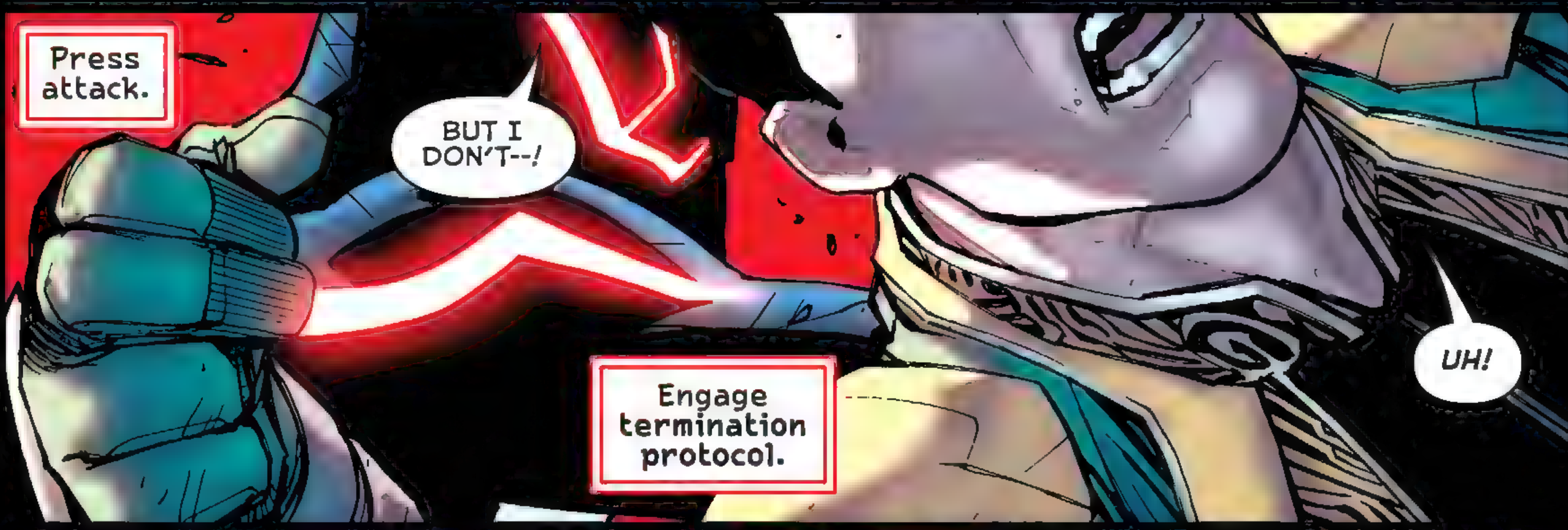
WHOA.
HOW DO WE STOP THAT?



WHEN THE HEAD OF THE DEMON GIVES AN ORDER...

...YOU FOLLOW.

Control re... RRTTZZ... established.



Press attack.

BUT I DON'T--!

Engage termination protocol.

UH!



WAIT.

THAT BLADE? I DIDN'T--!

Strike.



STOP,
TERRY.

IF YOU
THINK FOR ONE
SECOND THAT I'LL
LET YOU KILL
MY SON...



...YOU'RE
WRONG.

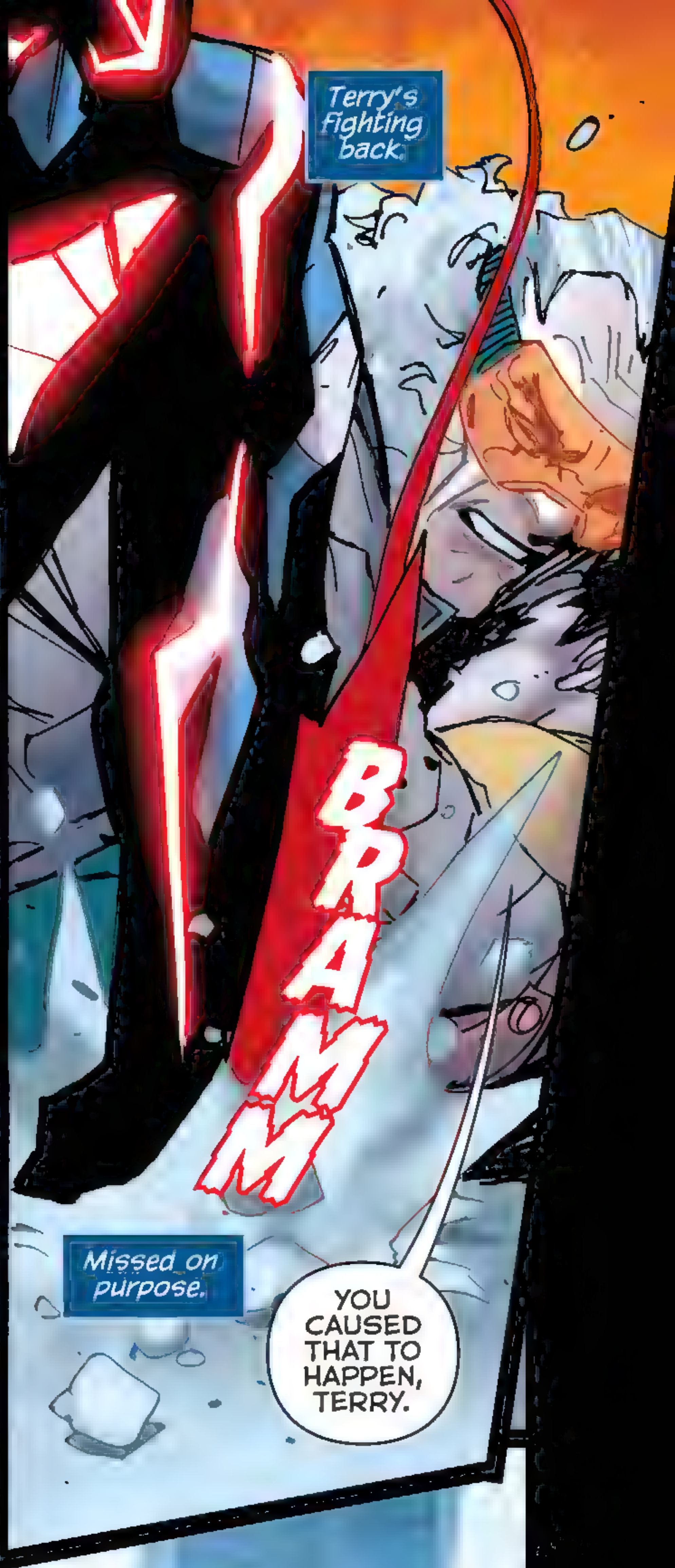
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
KILL ME
FIRST.



I
CAN'T...

...I
DON'T...

It's suddenly
clear to me.



Terry's
fighting
back.

Missed on
purpose.

YOU
CAUSED
THAT TO
HAPPEN,
TERRY.



KEEP
FIGHTING.

TAKE
CONTROL.

NGH...



...NGH...

...NGHYAHHH!



HUHN...

...UHN...

YOU
DID IT,
TERRY.

YOU
BEAT THE
SUIT.

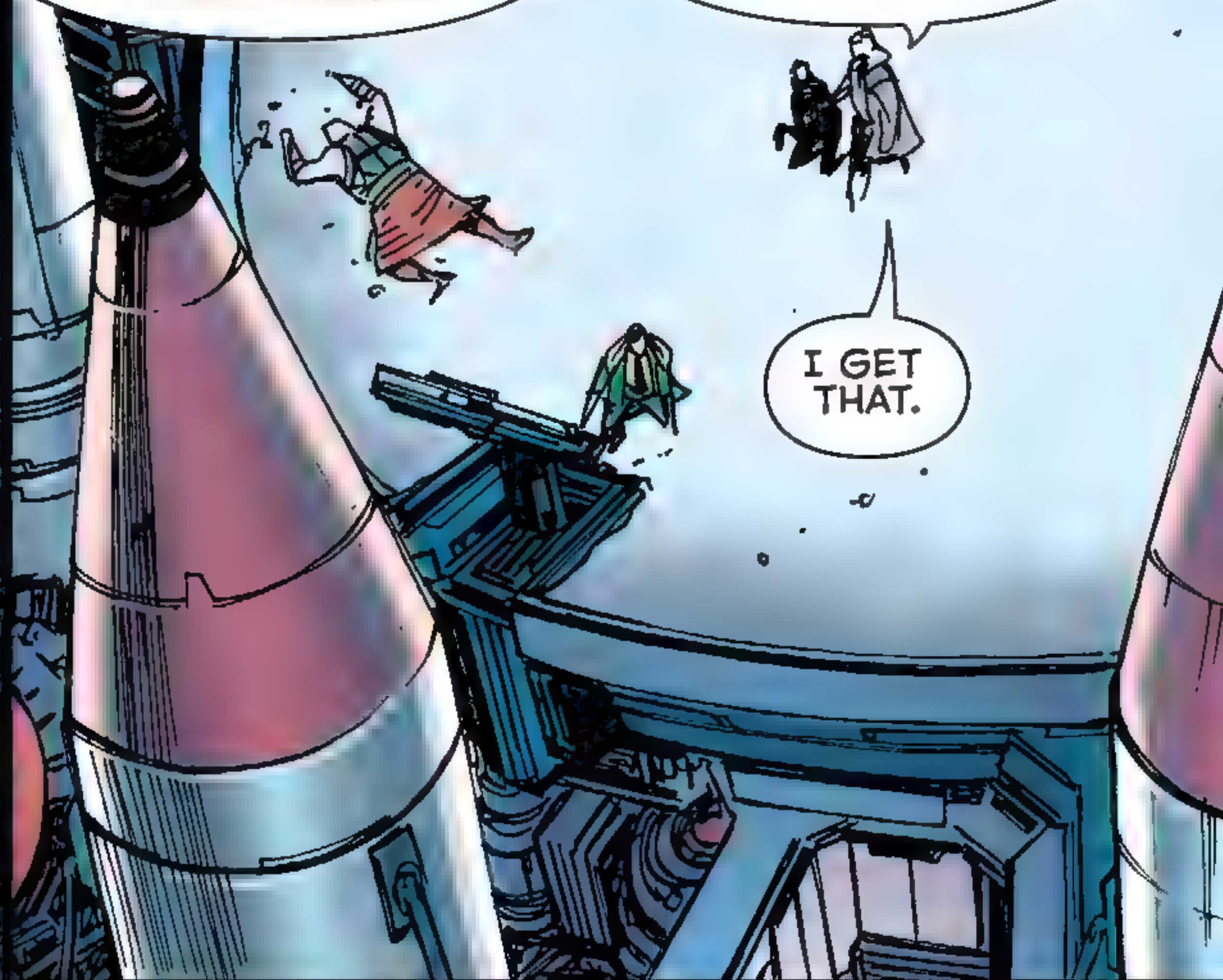
DAMIAN, IF YOU
ORCHESTRATED THIS
TO DRAW ME HERE
AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS...



...YOU
MADE
YOUR
POINT.

BUT, DEEP DOWN, YOU
KNOW THAT THE WIDE-
SCALE DEATH THAT WOULD
RESULT FROM YOUR
GRANDFATHER'S PLAN
IS **UNTHINKABLE**.

YOU'VE ALWAYS
STRUGGLED BETWEEN
THE LIFE YOU HAD WITH
ME AND YOUR LIFE WITH
YOUR MOTHER
AND RA'S.



I GET
THAT.



BUT THIS
ISN'T THE
WAY.

I **BEG** YOU
TO **ABANDON**
THIS COURSE
OF ACTION.

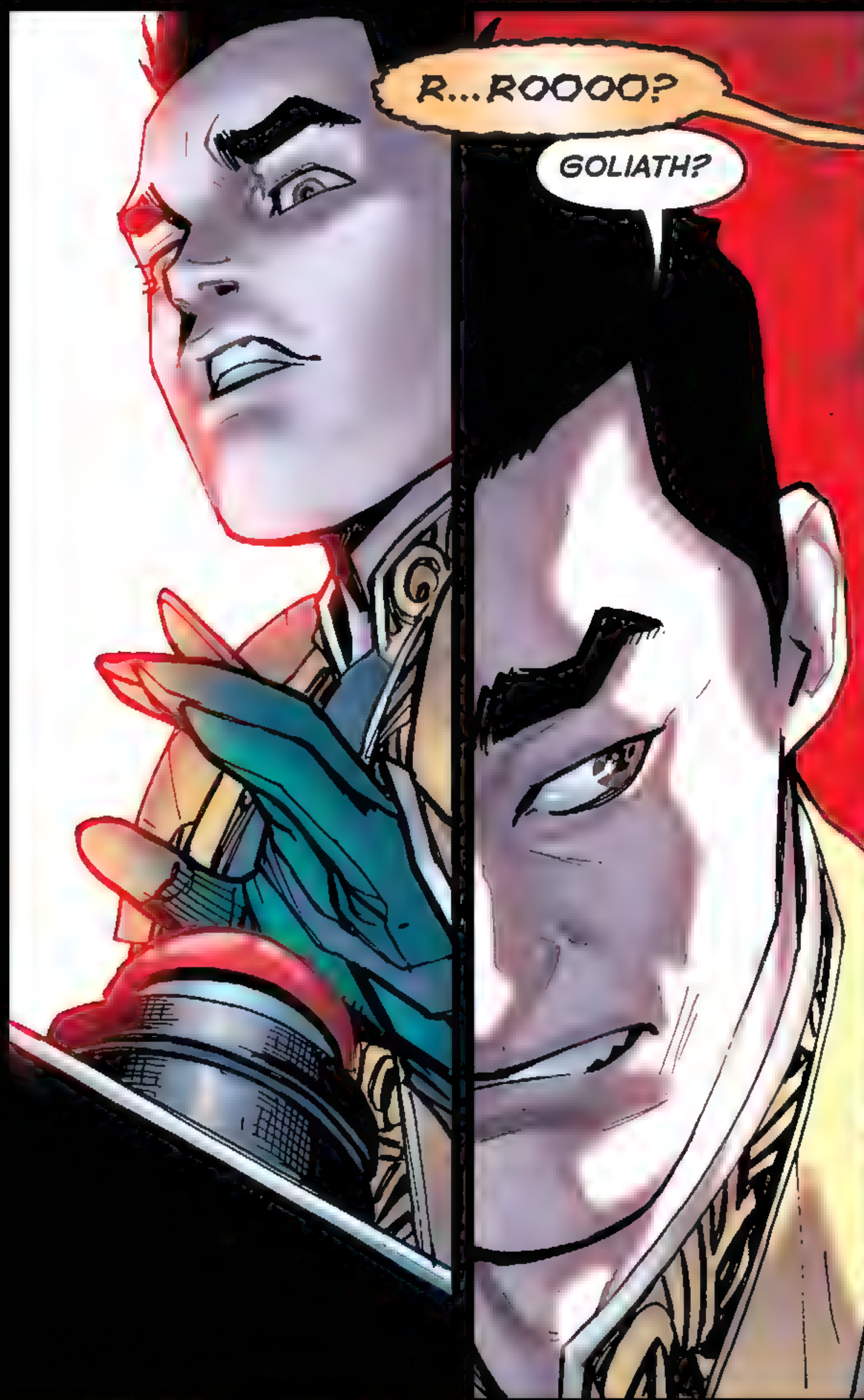


EARTH HAS
MORE THAN
ITS SHARE OF
PROBLEMS...BUT
THIS WILL ONLY
MAKE THINGS
WORSE.



SO
LET'S WORK
TOGETHER
ON A **REAL**
SOLUTION.

PLEASE.



R...ROOOO?

GOLIATH?



I
THOUGHT--!

HE WAS JUST
UNCONSCIOUS.

ABOUT TIME
THE ADRENALIN
SHOT I GAVE HIM
KICKED IN.

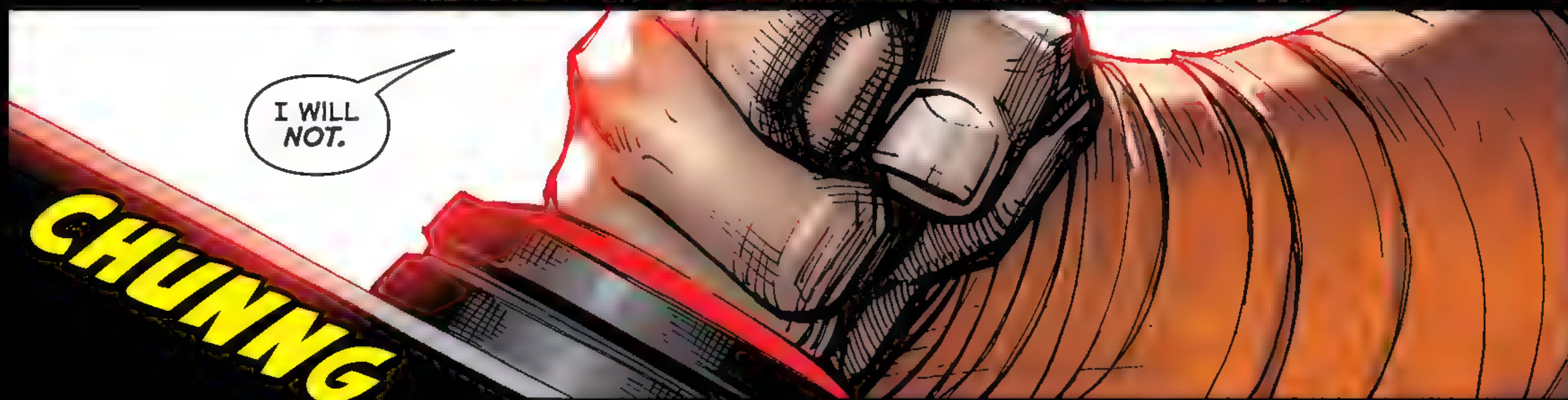
THANK
GOD. I
WOULDN'T
HAVE WANTED
TO BE...



INFIDELS!



YOU HAVE
BETRAYED
THE ONE TRUE
HEAD OF THE
DEMON!



I WILL
NOT.

CHUNNG



ARE
THOSE...



...NUKES?



WORSE.

DNA
TOXINS.

DESIGNED
TO ERADICATE
ALL BUT THE
STRONGEST!



THAT
WAS MY
CALL TO
MAKE.

PAKT

NOT
YOURS.



REDIRECT
THEM.

IMPOSSIBLE.
ONCE LAUNCHED,
THE TARGETS ARE
LOCKED IN.

DON'T
WORRY.



I GOT
THIS.



TERRY!

DON'T!

YOU FEAR
THE SUIT WILL
ONCE AGAIN TAKE
PERMANENT
CONTROL OF
MCGINNIS.

BUT THE
SUIT CAN BE
OVERCOME.

I DID
IT.

HOPEFULLY,
GIVEN THE SUIT'S
WEAKENED
STATE.

BUT IT'S THAT
WEAKNESS...

HE WILL
AS WELL.

"... that may doom Terry."

PULSE BLASTERS?

Minimally effective with power levels at 53%.



THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.

WU WU WU



Power levels dropping.

WU WU WU WU

38%...

31%...
26%...

Have to do this...

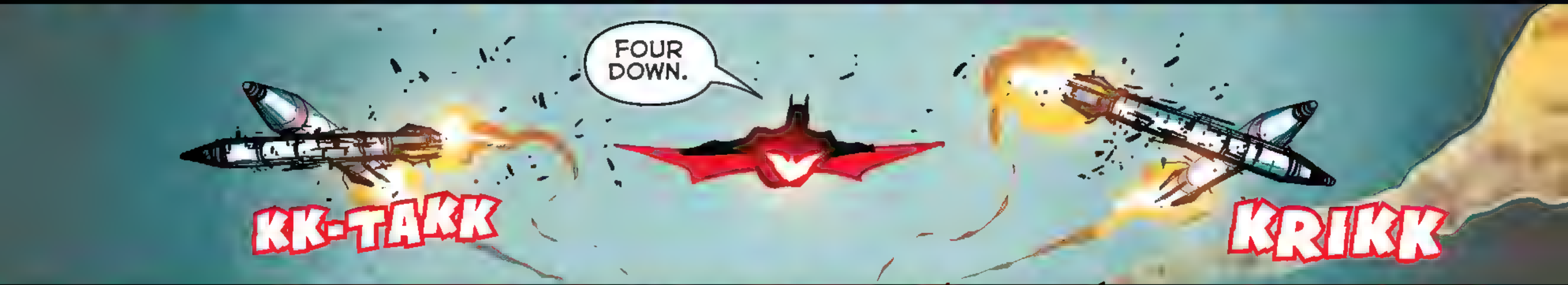


STAY WITH ME.

19%...

WU WU WU

...before toxins are mixed and active.



FOUR DOWN.

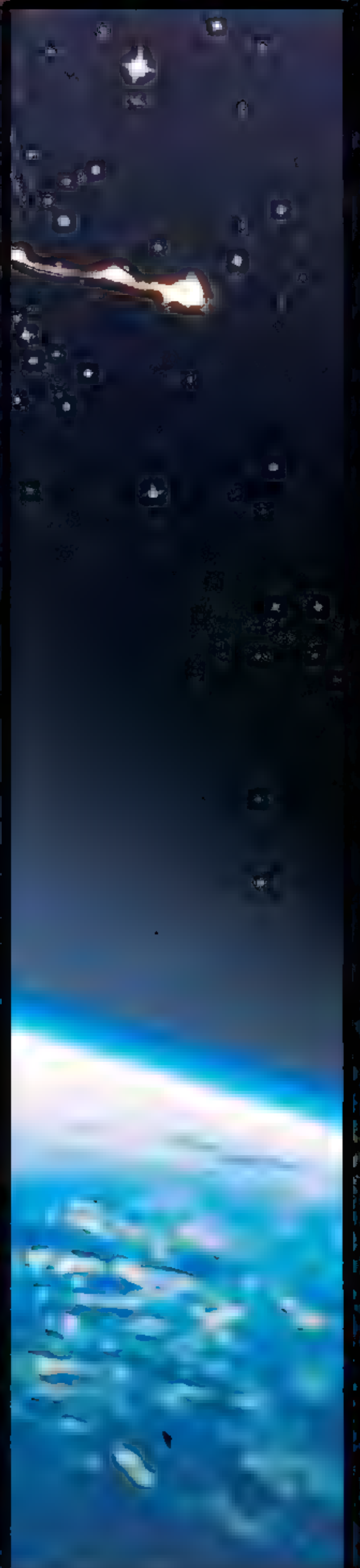
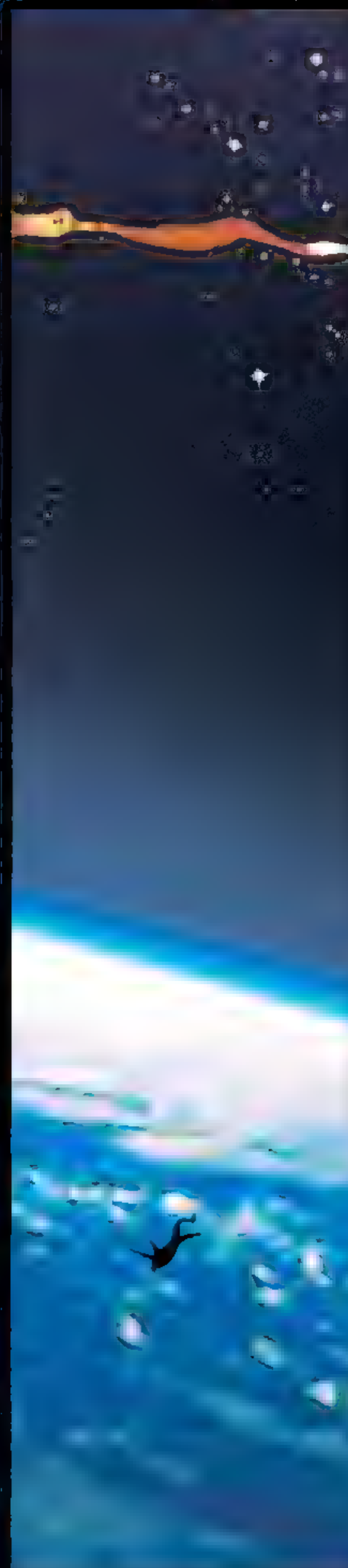
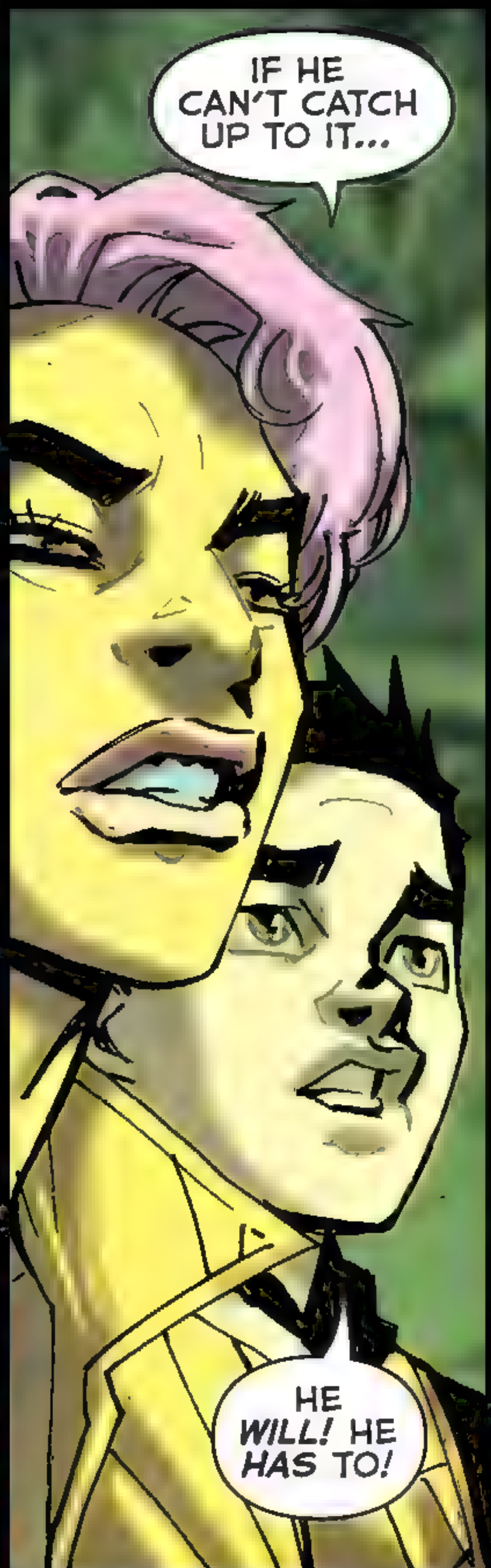
KK-TAKK

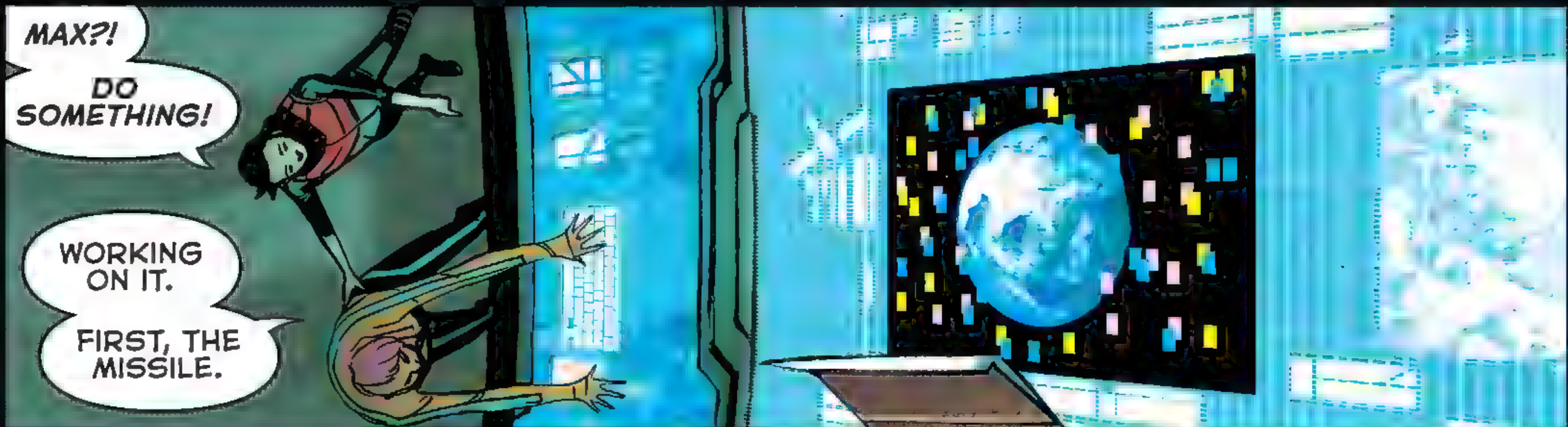
KRIKK



ONE TO GO.

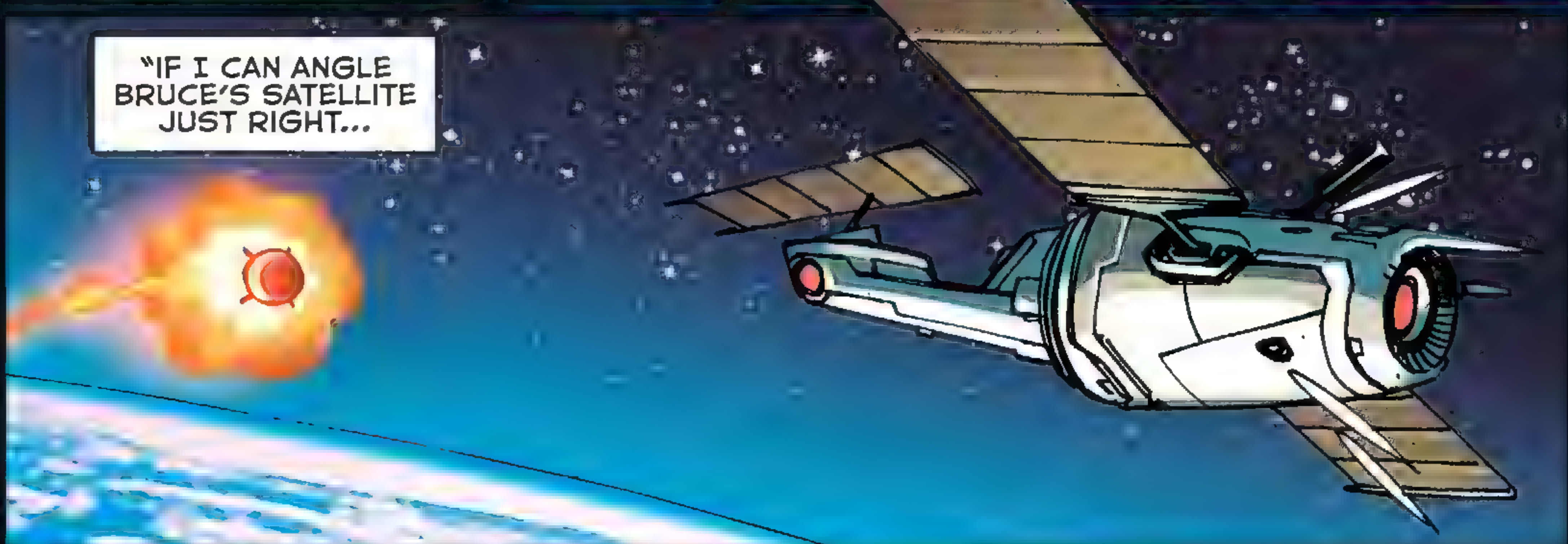
BWHOOOM





MAX?!
DO
SOMETHING!

WORKING
ON IT.
FIRST, THE
MISSILE.



"IF I CAN ANGLE
BRUCE'S SATELLITE
JUST RIGHT..."



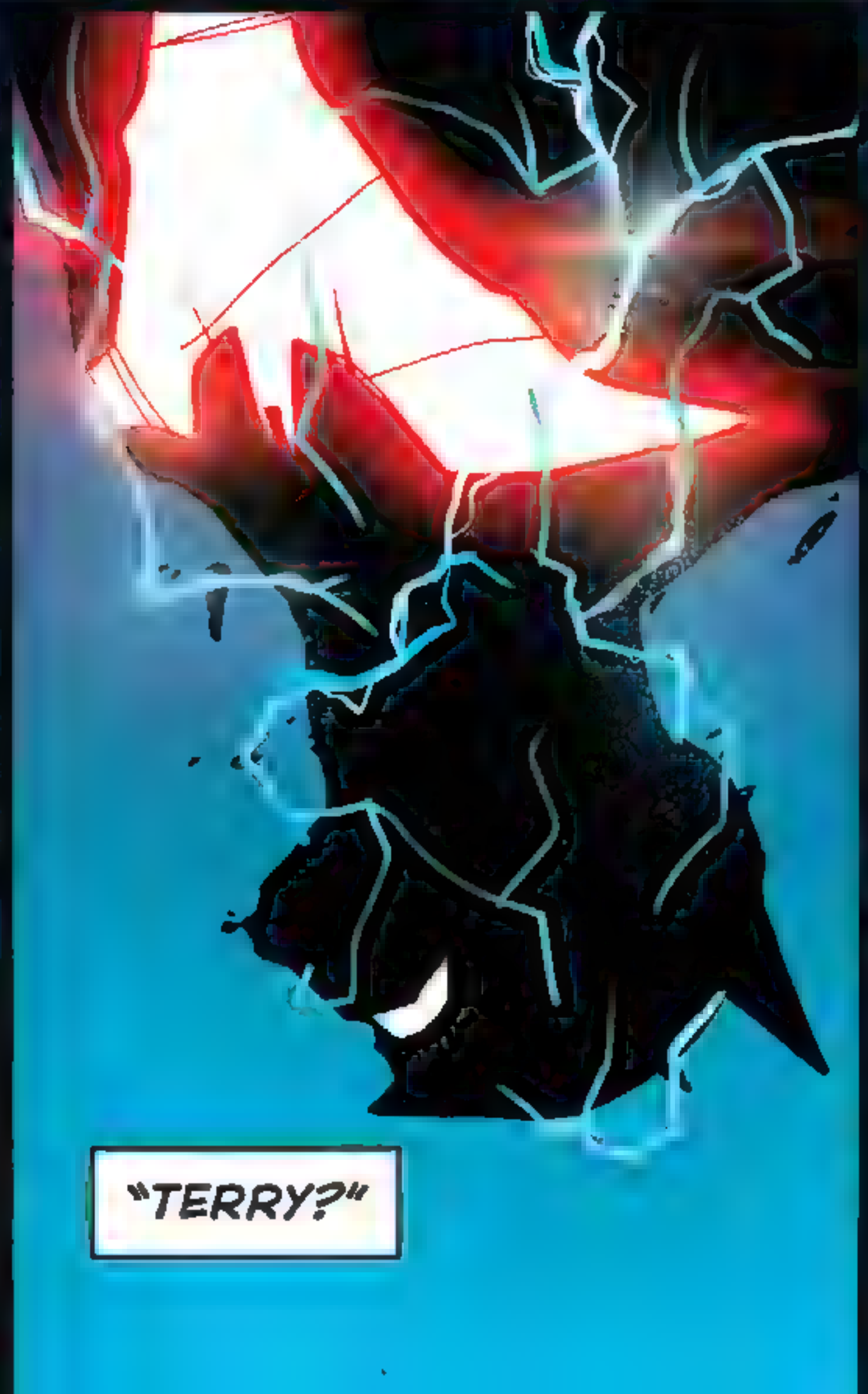
"YES!"



"WE DID IT!
THE MISSILE
IS NEGATED,
TERRY."

"TERRY?"

"CAN YOU
HEAR ME?"



"TERRY?"

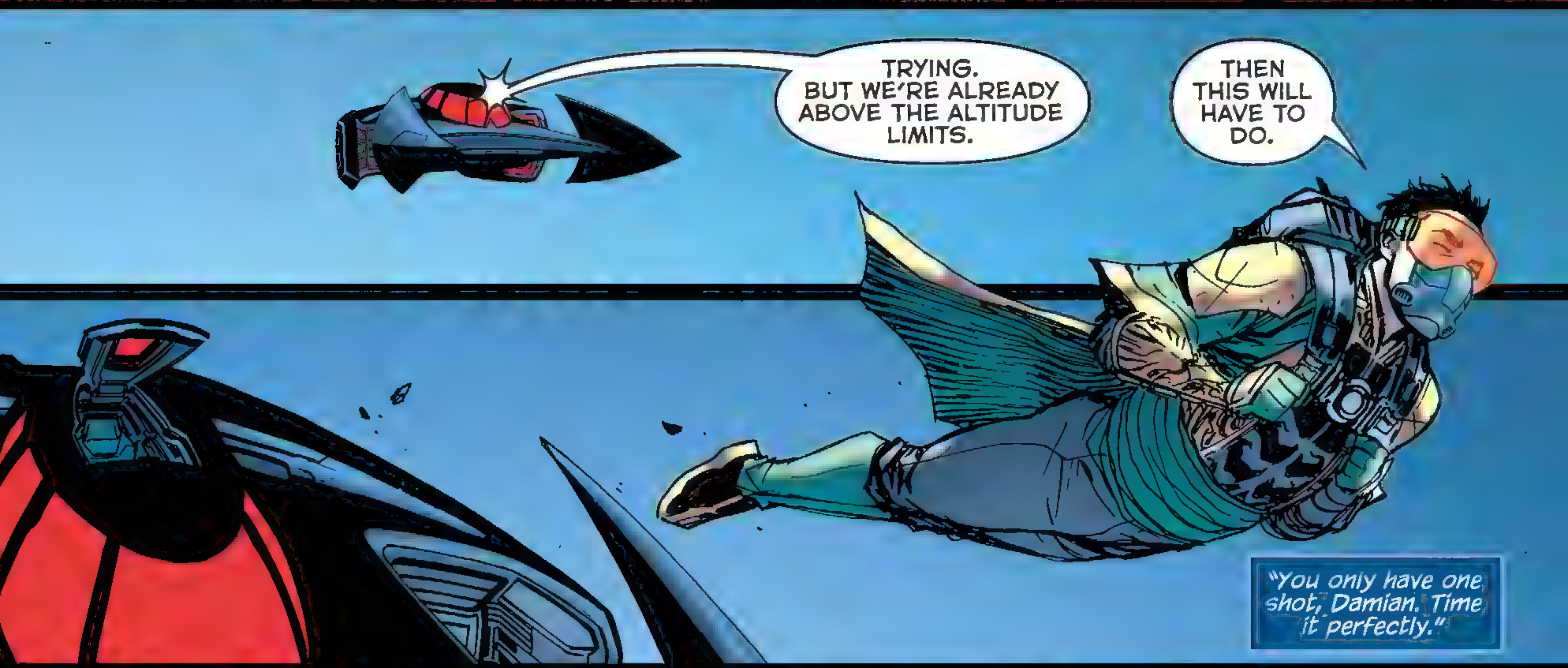


"Don't
worry, Max."



WE'RE
ON IT.

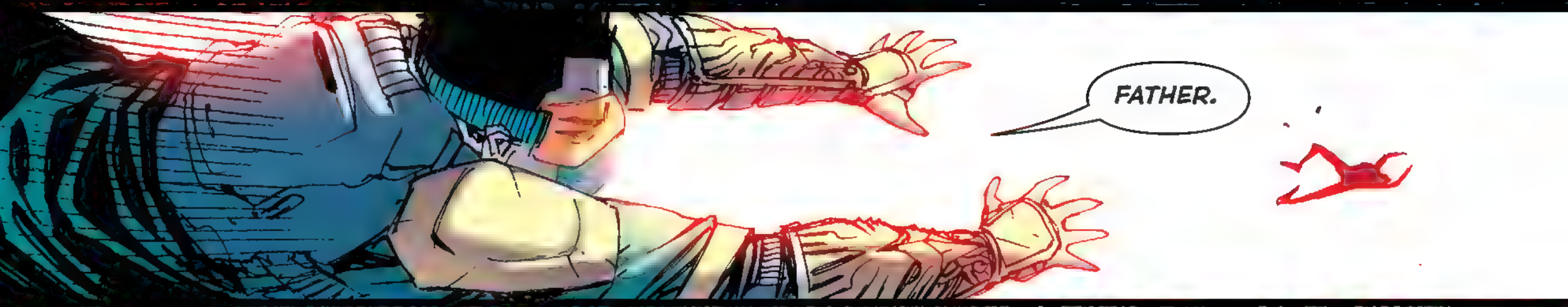
CLOSER.



TRYING.
BUT WE'RE ALREADY
ABOVE THE ALTITUDE
LIMITS.

THEN
THIS WILL
HAVE TO
DO.

"You only have one
shot, Damian. Time
it perfectly."



FATHER.



I AM
INCAPABLE OF
ANY OTHER
WAY.



HE
DID IT!

THAT IS
JUST...SO...

...SCHWAY.



"Never would have
thought the day would
end with Damian
saving Terry."

"Nice to see
I can still be
surprised, even
at this old age."



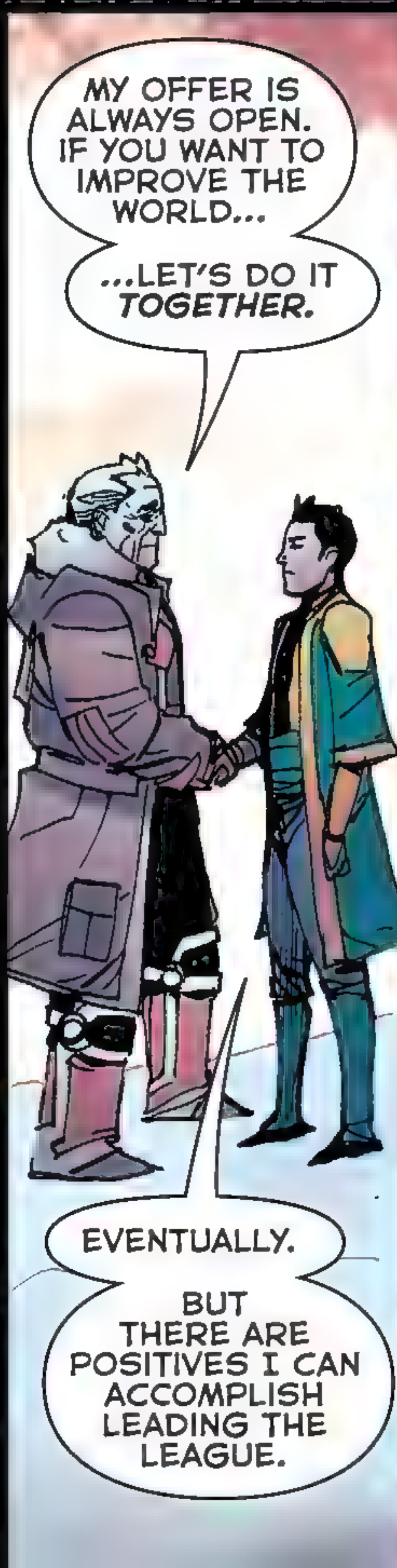
I'D STILL LIKE FOR YOU TO COME WITH US, DAMIAN.

NOT NOW, FATHER.

BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN I RETURN.

BALLOONS, CAKE AND CONFETTI IN THE BATCAVE, FOR SURE.

UH...WE CAN HAVE CONFETTI IN THE BATCAVE, RIGHT?



MY OFFER IS ALWAYS OPEN. IF YOU WANT TO IMPROVE THE WORLD...

...LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.

EVENTUALLY.
BUT THERE ARE POSITIVES I CAN ACCOMPLISH LEADING THE LEAGUE.



DON'T BE A STRANGER.

ARUNK!



YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE SOFTENING UP IN YOUR OLD AGE.

I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE LONG BEFORE NOW.



IT'S OKAY TO BE A DAD, BRUCE.

EVEN BETTER TO FEEL LIKE I HAVE TWO SONS, TERRY.

END





DECADES FROM NOW
NEO-GOTHAM.



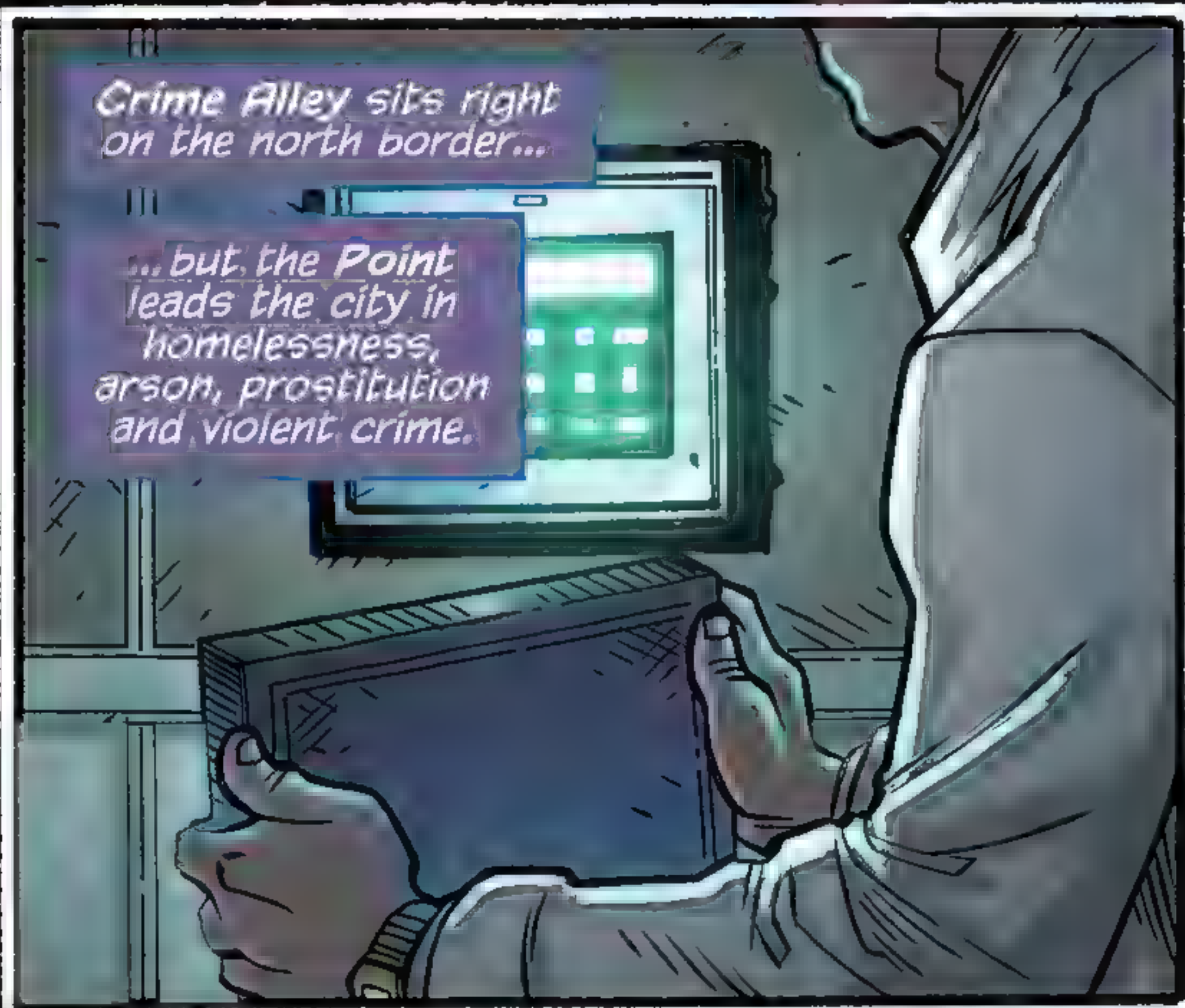
The Bowery has
always been the
worst neighborhood
in Gotham.

And Crown
Point, one
of its inner
districts, is
the worst of
the worst.

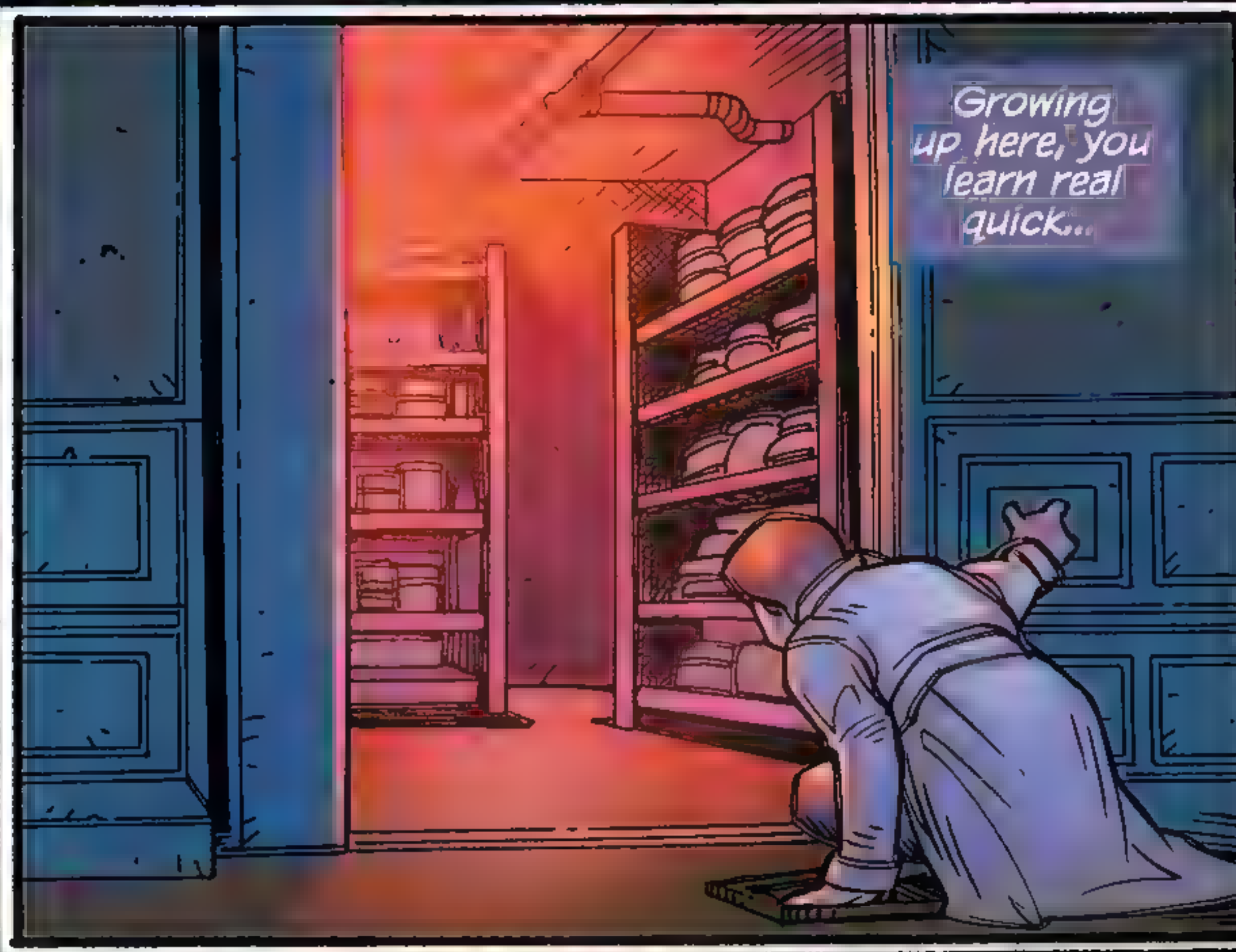


Crime Alley sits right
on the north border...

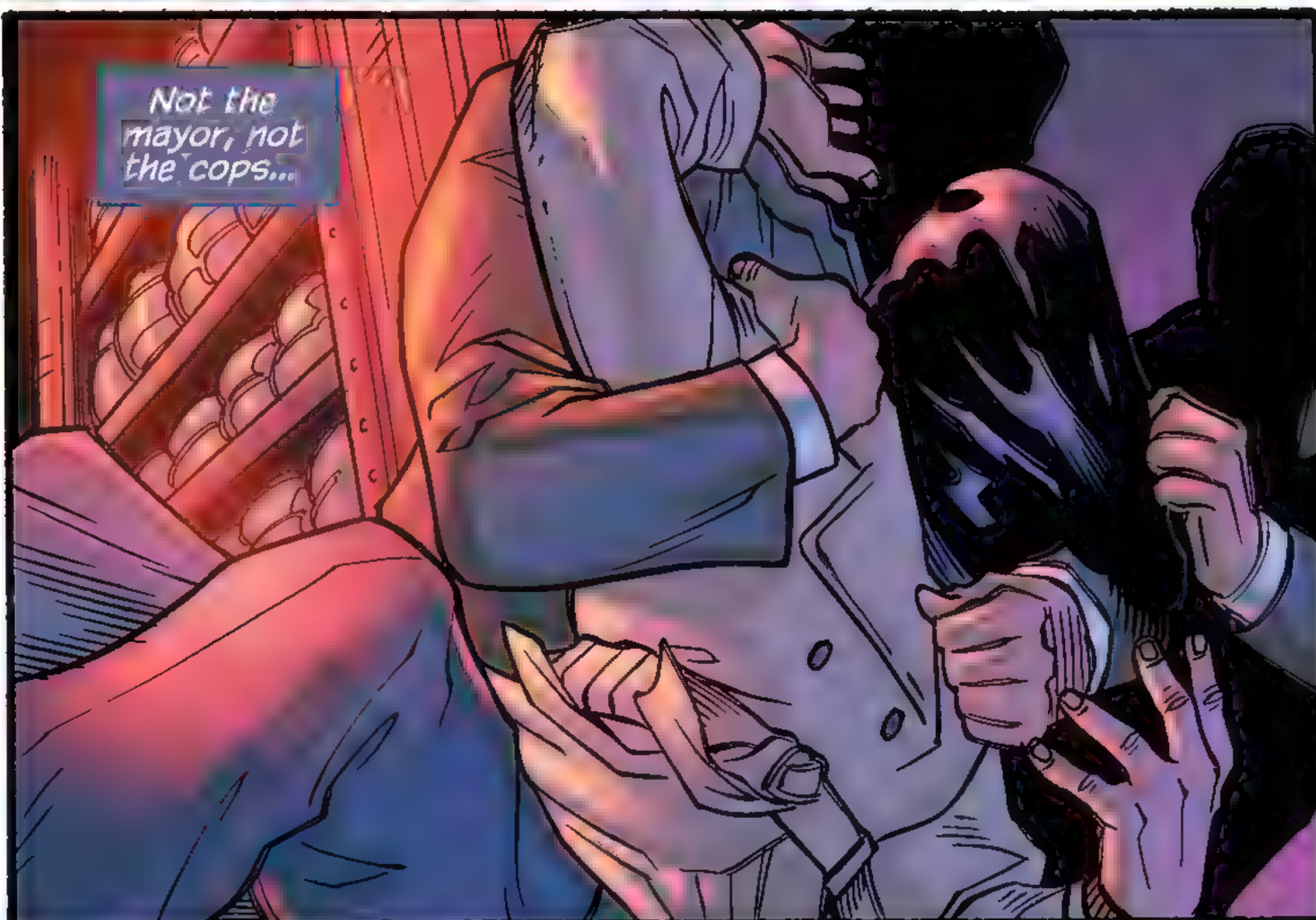
...but, the Point
leads the city in
homelessness,
arson, prostitution
and violent crime.



Growing
up here, you
learn real
quick...



Not the
mayor, not
the cops...



...When things
look bad? No
one's coming
to save you.

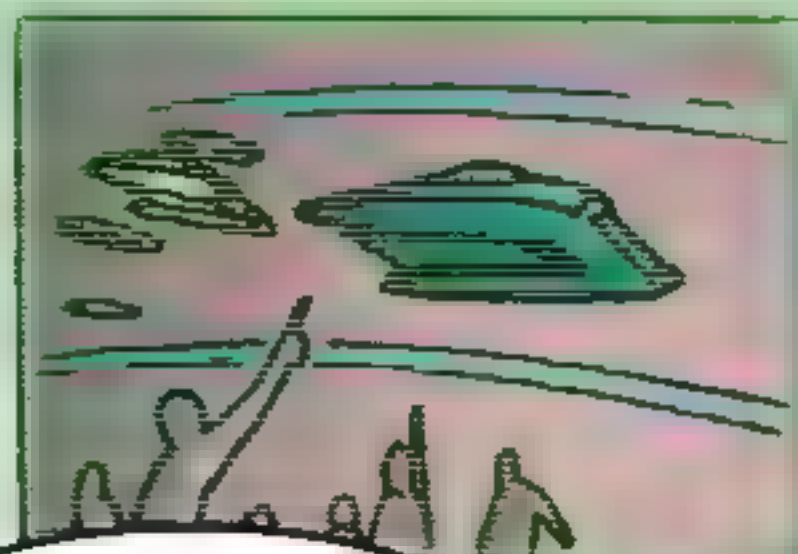
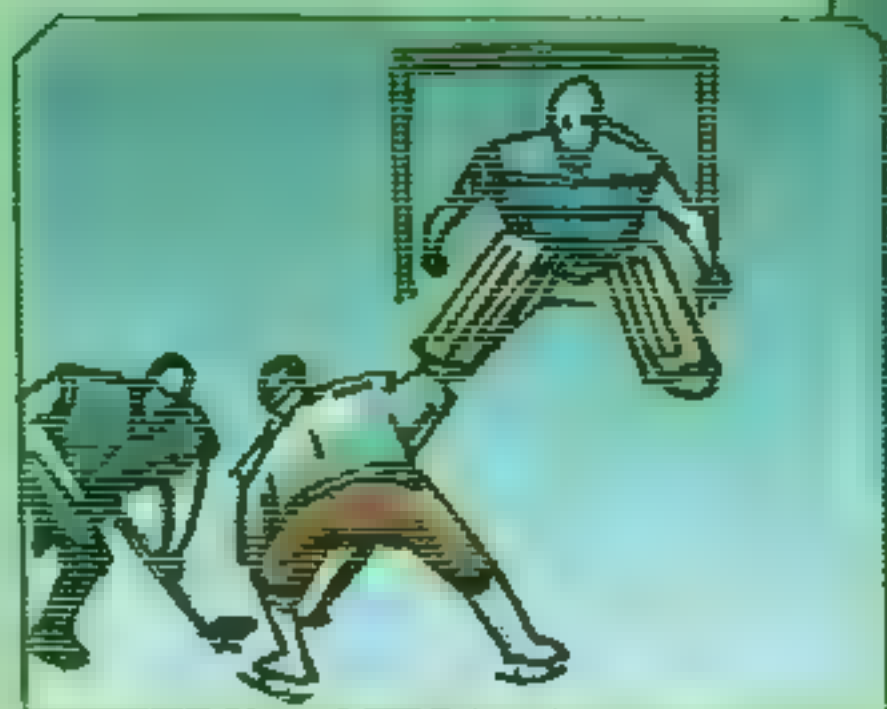


Not even
Batman.

THINGS'RE
QUIET TONIGHT.
MAKES ME
ITCHY...

DON'T
JINX US,
KID.

WITH
BRUCE AND
TERRY OFF
CHASING RA'S
AL GHUL IN
TIBET, I'LL
TAKE IT.



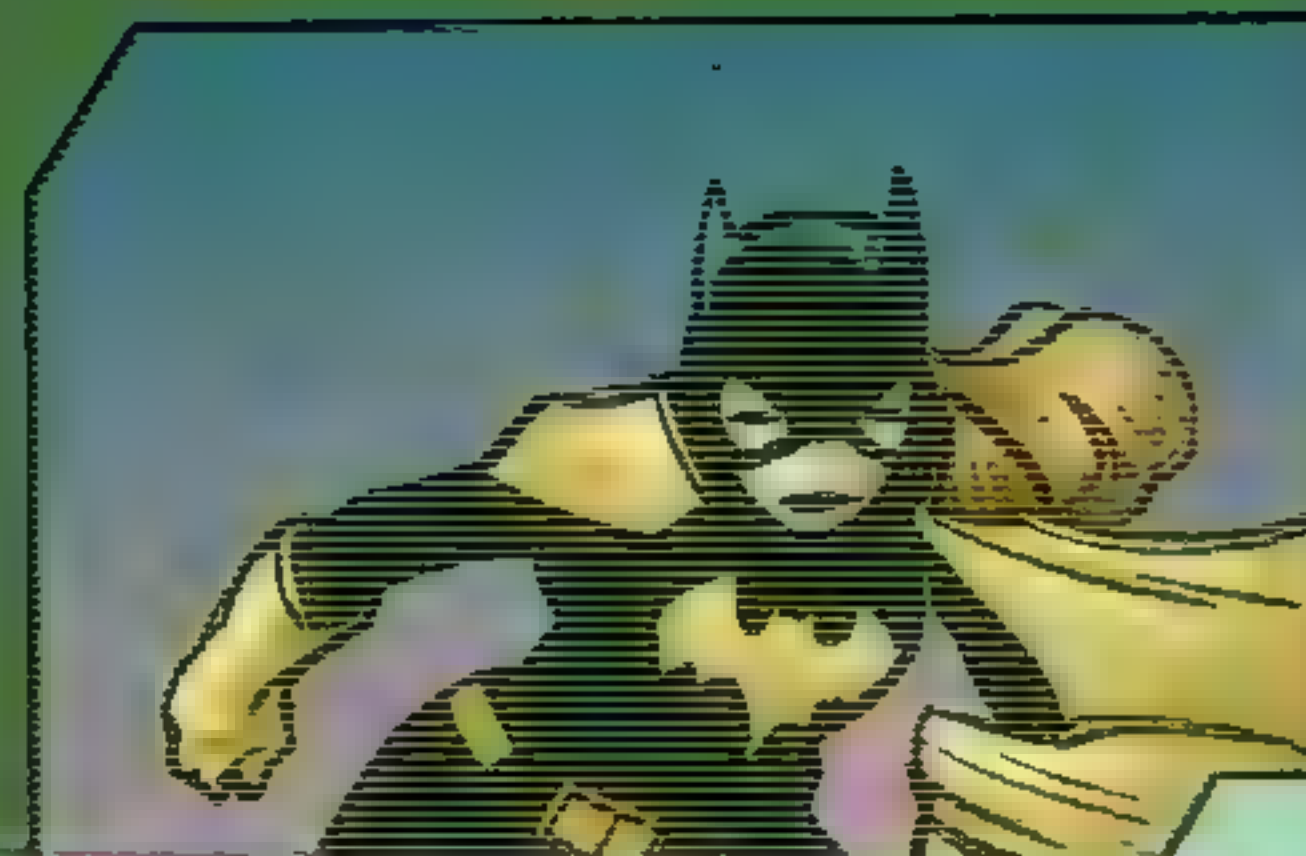
SO FAR
NOTHING THE
POLICE CAN'T
HANDLE...



RECEIVING
EMERGENCY
TRANSMISSION.

PRIORITY
ALERT.

DISTRESS
BEACON--BARBARA
GORDON.



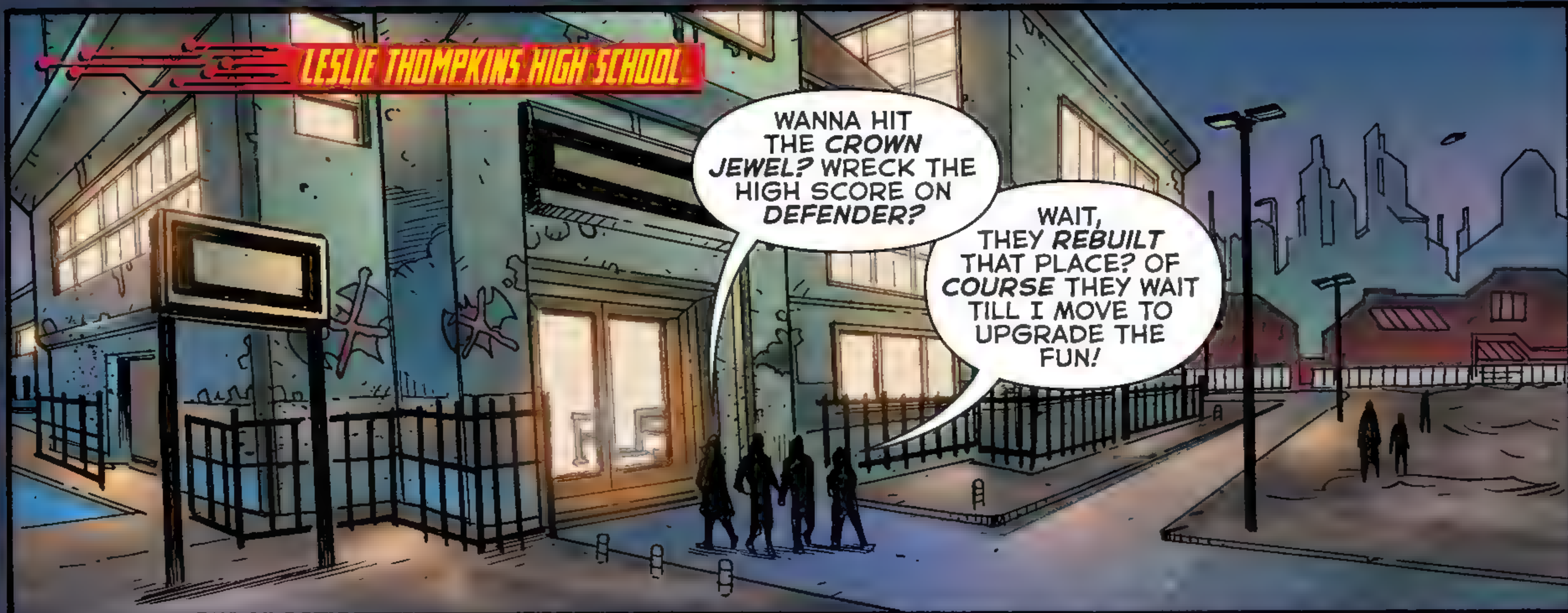
GORDON, BARBARA
GCPD Commissioner
Former Alias: Batgirl
Status: **Missing**



...THE
COMMISSIONER?
IT'S BEEN A
PICOSECOND.



LESLIE THOMPkins HIGH SCHOOL



WANNA HIT THE CROWN JEWEL? WRECK THE HIGH SCORE ON DEFENDER?

WAIT, THEY REBUILT THAT PLACE? OF COURSE THEY WAIT TILL I MOVE TO UPGRADE THE FUN!

NO GO FOR ME, DANNY. MOM'S STILL RILED UP ABOUT THE JAY WHITE INCIDENT.

IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO CONVINCE HER TO LET ME TAKE THESE COLLEGE PREP CLASSES...

...WHAT DID YOU DO, NISSA?



THE CLICK-BAIT VERSION? GIRL UPPERCUTS TEACHER OUTSIDE OF HER SCHOOL--NEWS AT ELEVEN.

WHAT, HE ASSIGN READING FOR THE WEEKEND?



NOPE. BUT HE DID GET CAUGHT SELLIN' TO MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! TOTAL DREG...

DISAPPEARED BEFORE THE COPS COULD GET HIM, TOO!

CRAZY TALK! DID THE BAT GET 'EM?

YEAH, RIGHT! LIKE HE BOTHERS COMING UP HERE.

MIGHT GET HIS FANCY SUIT DIRTY.



Be real, Danny.

"...the Batman
doesn't even
know the Point
exists."

BATWOMEN BEYOND

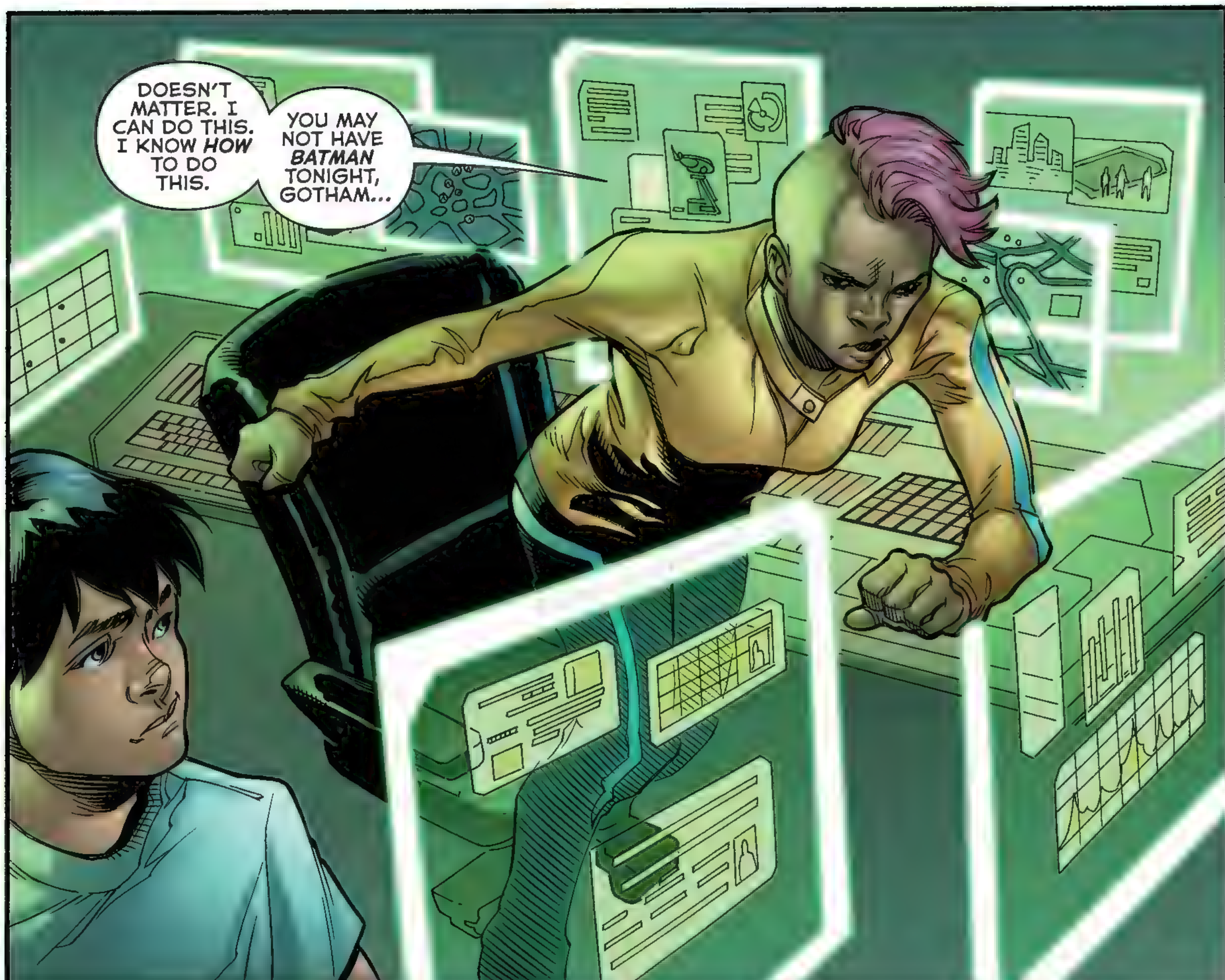
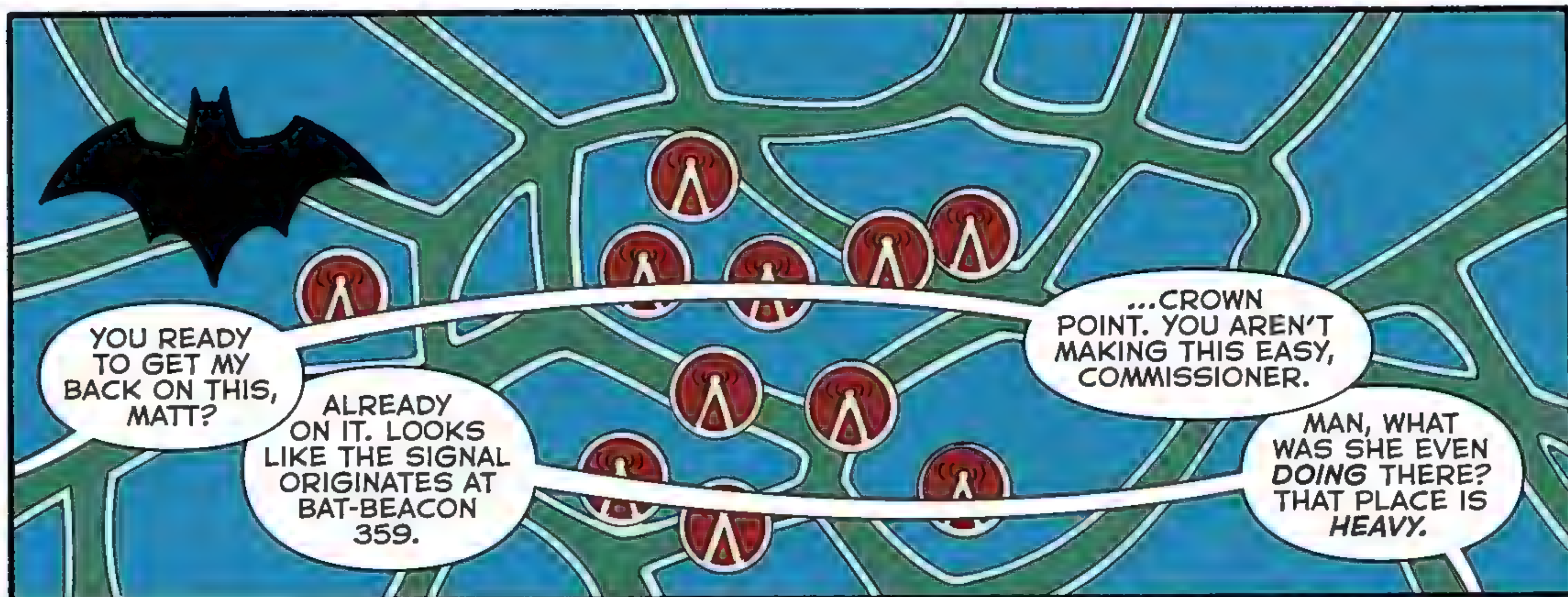
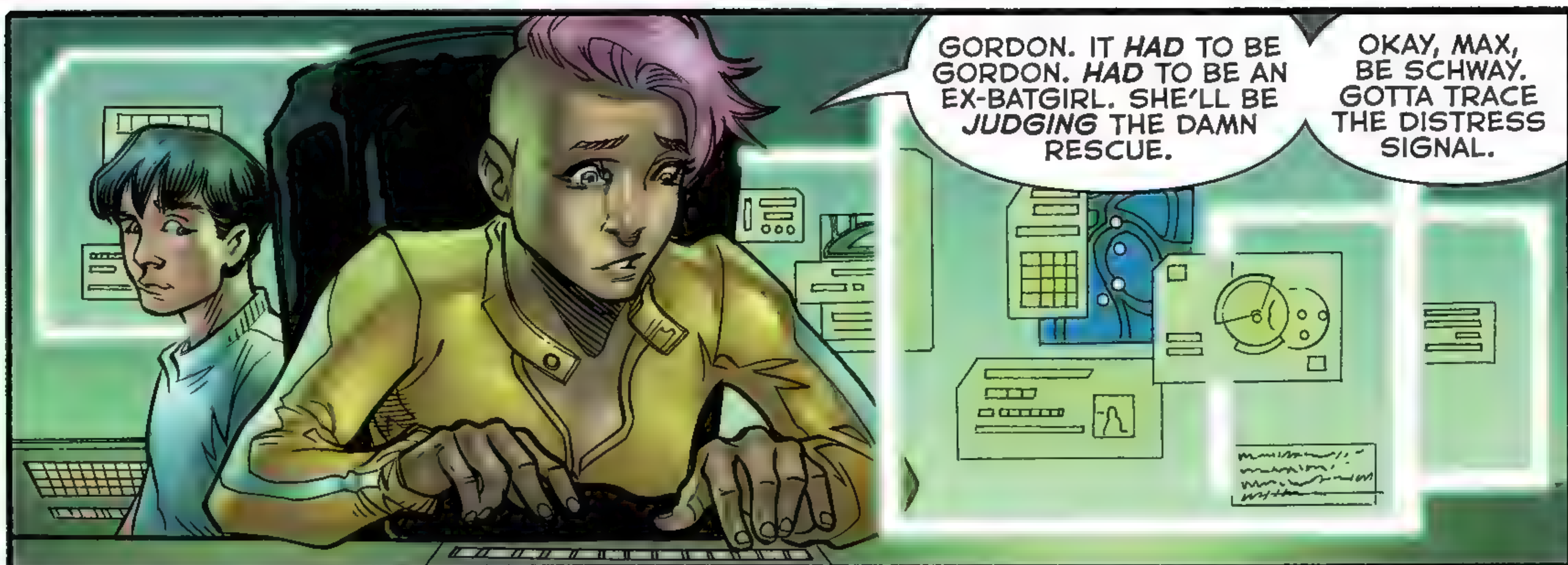
A BATMAN BEYOND INTERLUDE BY THE GUEST TEAM OF

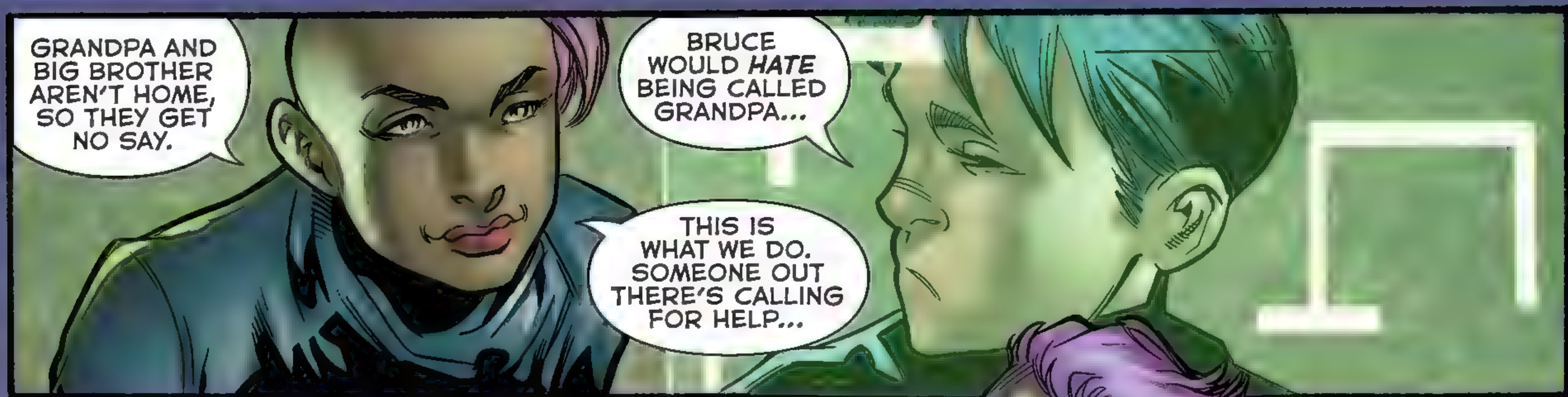
VITA AYALA & STEVE ORLANDO	SIYA OUM	DEXTER VINES	TONY AVIÑA
WRITERS	PENCILS	INKS	COLORS

TRAVIS LANHAM: LETTERS

BERNARD CHANG & MARCELO MAIOLO: COVER
ROB LEVIN: ASSOCIATE EDITOR JIM CHADWICK: EDITOR







Neo-Gotham rebuilds.
Crown Point sinks
into the sludge.

People think it's a
survival game. Watch
out for yourself, or
get dead.

But we can't keep
going that way.

DRUGS
COME IN, END
UP IN MIDDLE
SCHOOLS. WHO'S
SUPPLYING?

A TIME
AND PLACE
STOPS THE PAIN,
TENTACLE-
BOY.

HRRRN--
OKAY, OKAY!

WE MEET
OUR CONTACT
AT THE OLD
BUS DEPOT!
10 P.M.!

*Thanks
for the tip,
squiddy.*



...IT'S CUTE YOU THINK YOU CAN SNEAK UP ON SOMEONE FROM THE POINT.

...JUST TYING MY SHOES BACK HERE.

LOUDLY, DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF HIDING.

WHO'S HIDING, BATGIRL? WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.



MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. I DON'T KNOW YOU.

SINCE WHEN DO GOOD SAMARITANS CARE ABOUT COPS MOVING DRUGS IN THE POINT?

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE. DRUGS OR NOT, I'VE GOT A FRIEND CAUGHT UP IN IT.

...SORRY. THAT SUCKS. I KNOW HOW IT FEELS.



I APPRECIATE THAT.

IT'S GORDON. SHE WAS INVESTIGATING SOMETHING SHADY AND WENT DARK. MANAGED TO GET A DISTRESS CALL OFF THOUGH...

THE COMMISSIONER? DAMN, SHE...SHE'S ONE OF THE GOOD ONES.



I OWE HER ONE, BUT SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE THERE.

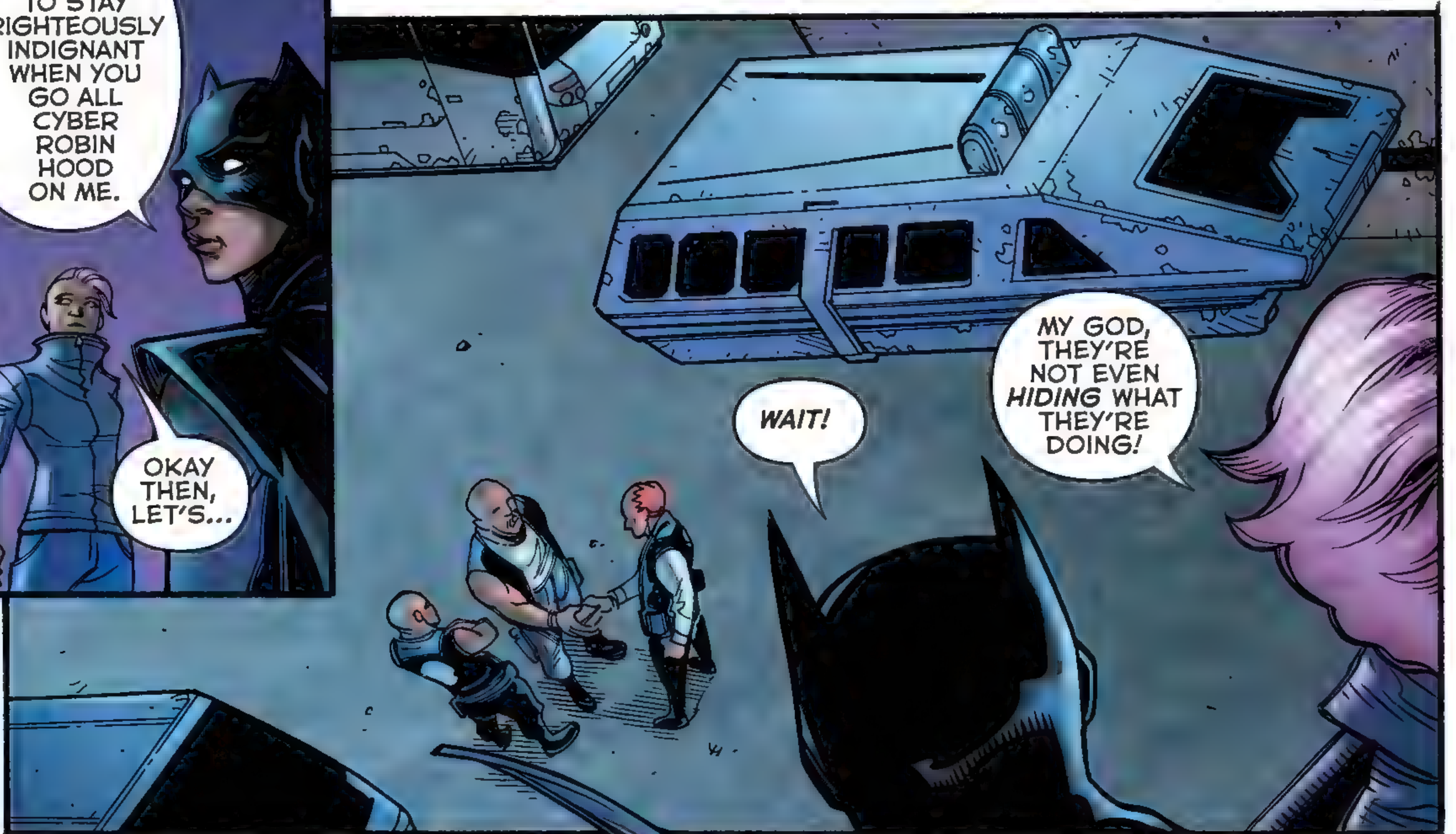
IF SHE IS, I'LL GET HER OUT. BY MYSELF. I DON'T NEED YOU, WHOEVER YOU ARE.

I GET IT. YOU DON'T KNOW ME, DON'T TRUST ME. BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE ABOUT THIS.



GORDON TRUSTS US BOTH, AND SHE'S IN TROUBLE.

I'M MAX. I WORK WITH BATMAN. AND I CAN HELP YOU.



READY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY?

I KNOW YOU'RE USED TO JUST RUSHING IN, BUT I HAVE A PLAN.

PLANS ARE WHAT I BRING TO THE TABLE.

PLAN: APPLY EXCESSIVE FORCE TO ALL THE SOFT PARTS.

THAT'S A BUSLOAD OF DIRTY COPS. YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE THEM ALONE?

TAKING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRES A LITTLE... FINESSE.

HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH THE WORK OF J.N. MASKELYNE?

SOUNDS LIKE A POOR MAN'S FOUNDING FATHER.

SIGH: WHAT ABOUT ZATANNA ZATARA?

FROM THE OLD JUSTICE LEAGUE?

RIGHT. SHE HAD REAL MAGIC. SHE WAS ALSO AN AMAZING ILLUSIONIST. I SAW HER FINAL SHOW. MADE AN IMPRESSION ON YOUNG MAX.

AND THE POINT IS...?

I SNUCK BACKSTAGE AFTER. I HAD THE GALL TO ASK HER IF IT WAS REAL.

THIS KIND OF MAGIC LIVES IN THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE MAGICIAN AND THE AUDIENCE, MAXINE.

THE AGREEMENT TO TRUST IN THE STATUS QUO OF REALITY, THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE TRICK POSSIBLE.



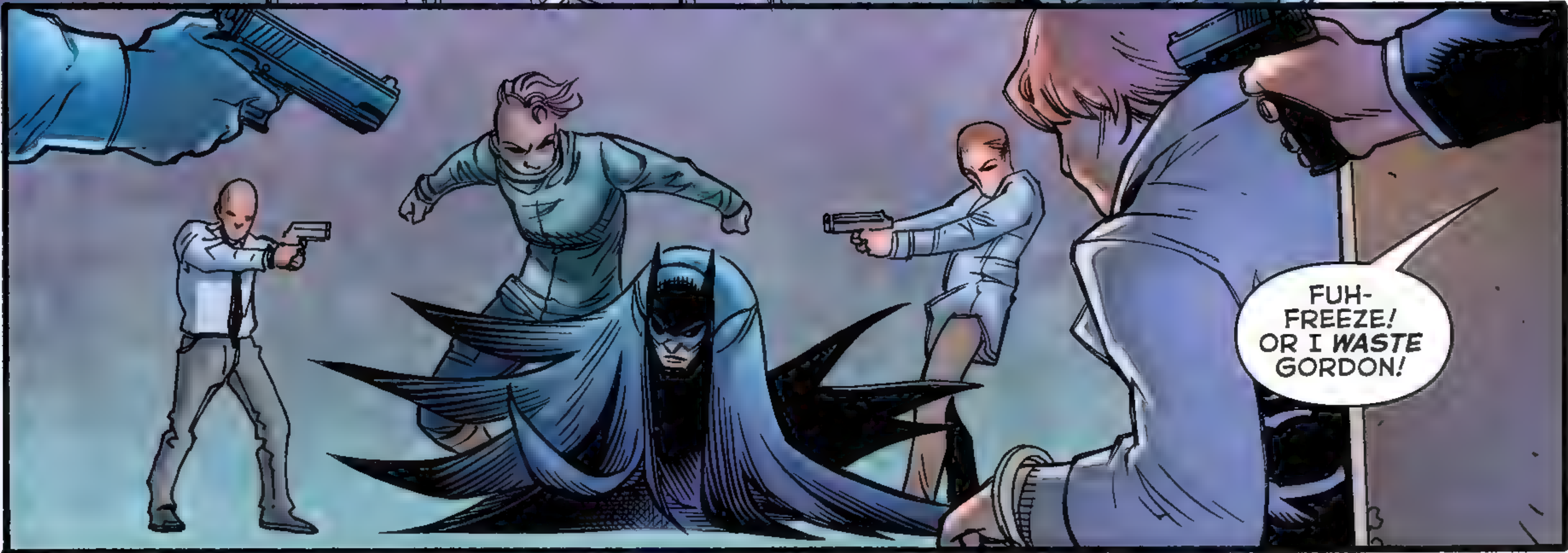
Those cops trust the status quo. I've got an idea, Batgirl... back my play?



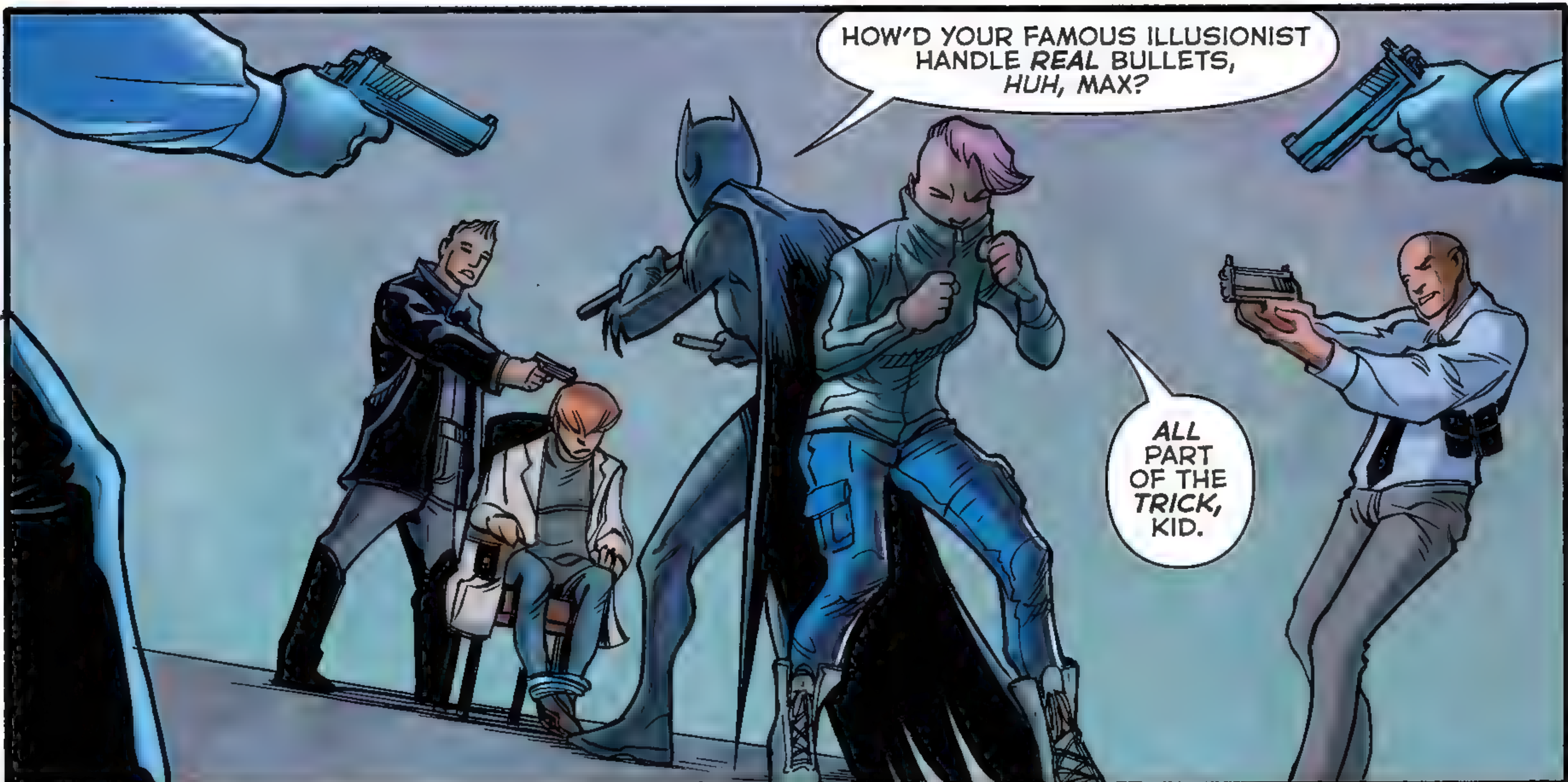
I DON'T KNOW, FLASS. IF I WERE YOU...

...IT'S NOT THE DOGS I'D WORRY ABOUT.

WHAT-- THE CAPES NEVER COME TO CROWN POINT!



FUH-FREEZE! OR I WASTE GORDON!



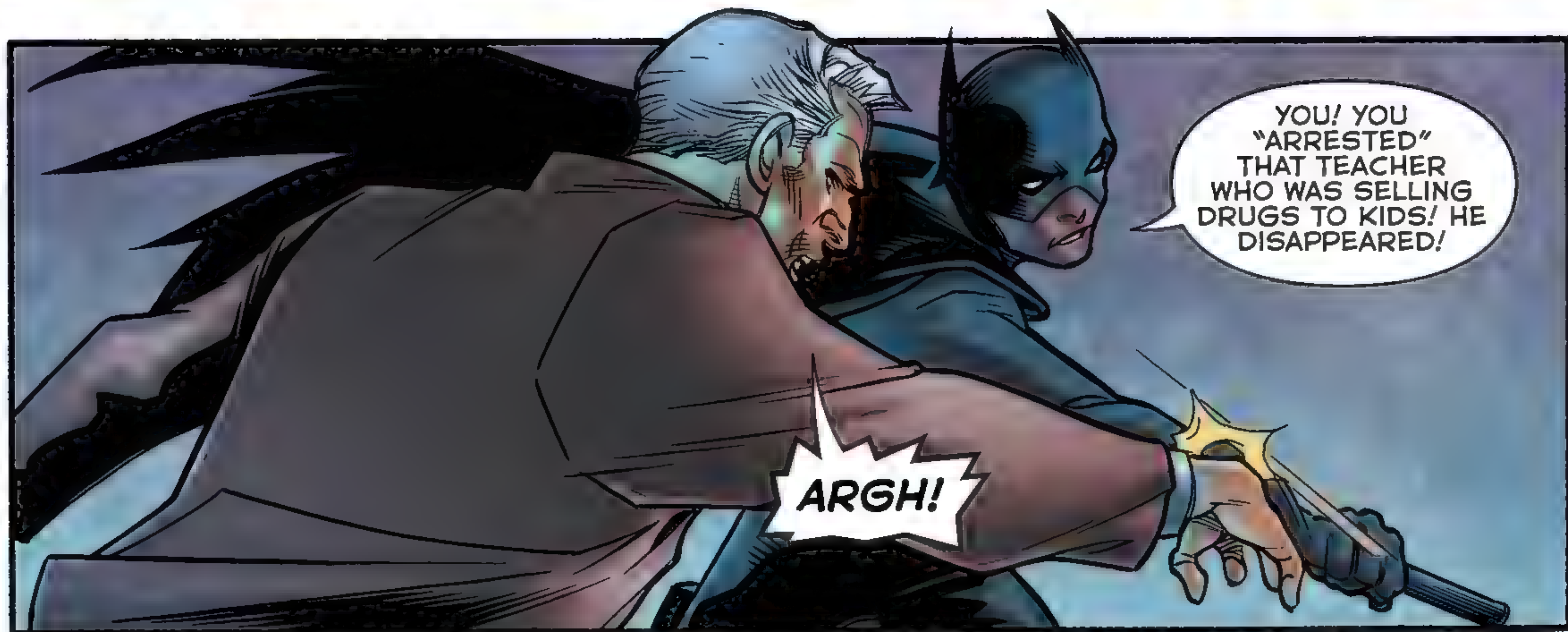
HOW'D YOUR FAMOUS ILLUSIONIST HANDLE REAL BULLETS, HUH, MAX?

ALL PART OF THE TRICK, KID.



HNGAGK!

BAM



ARGH!

YOU! YOU "ARRESTED" THAT TEACHER WHO WAS SELLING DRUGS TO KIDS! HE DISAPPEARED!



GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, COMMISSIONER. YOUR BATGIRL'S GOT SOME EDGE TO HER.

GLAD SHE MADE IT OUT OF THE BROTHER EYE MESS OKAY.

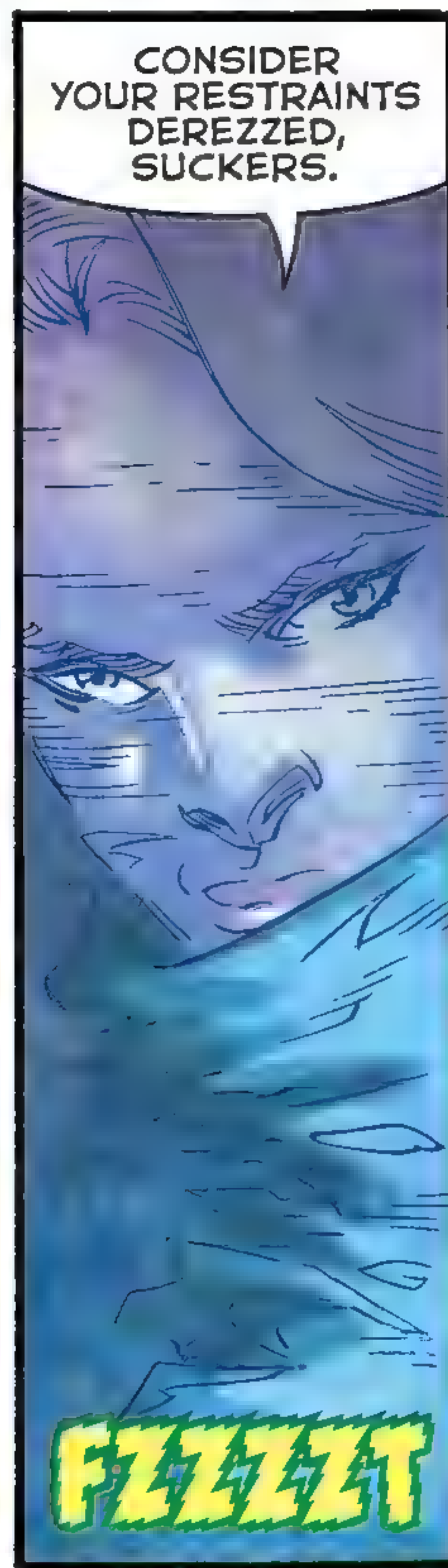
KNEW SHE WAS A GOOD FIT FOR THE MANTLE.



--WATCH OUT!

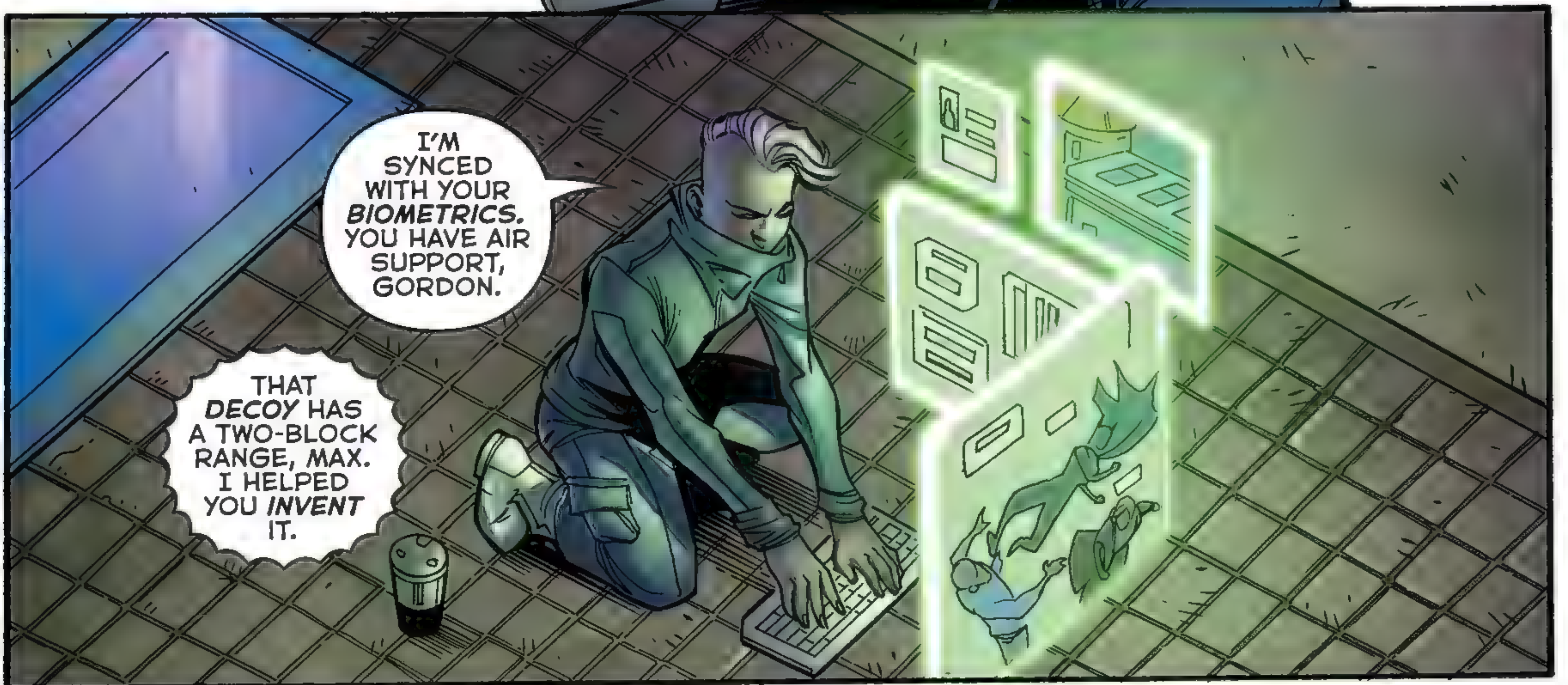
WHAT--A HOLOGRAM?

VOILA! OKAY. TIME TO INITIATE THE VIRAL LOAD.



CONSIDER YOUR RESTRAINTS DEREZZED, SUCKERS.

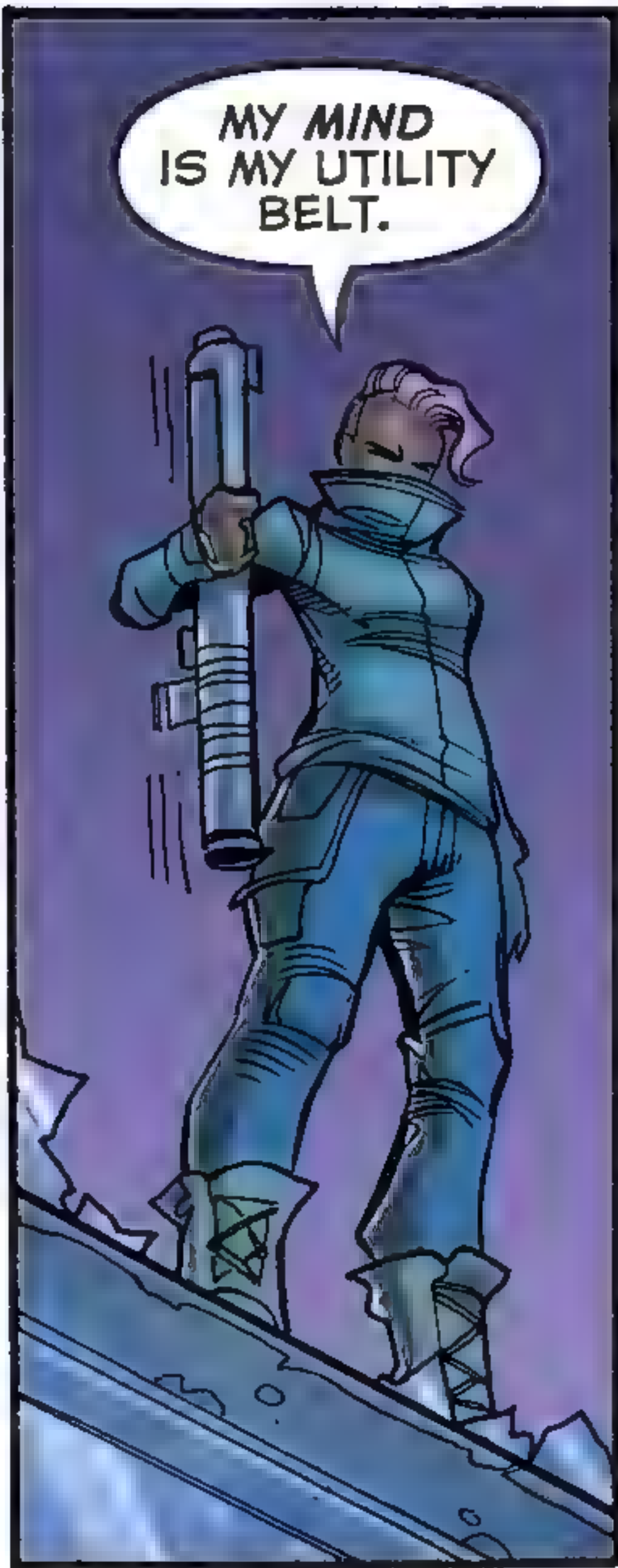
FZZZZT





FAIR ENOUGH--
ROOF
SUPPORT.

CRACKING
THE LIGHT-
CUFFS WITH
A VIRUS,
THOUGH?
GOOD
IDEA.

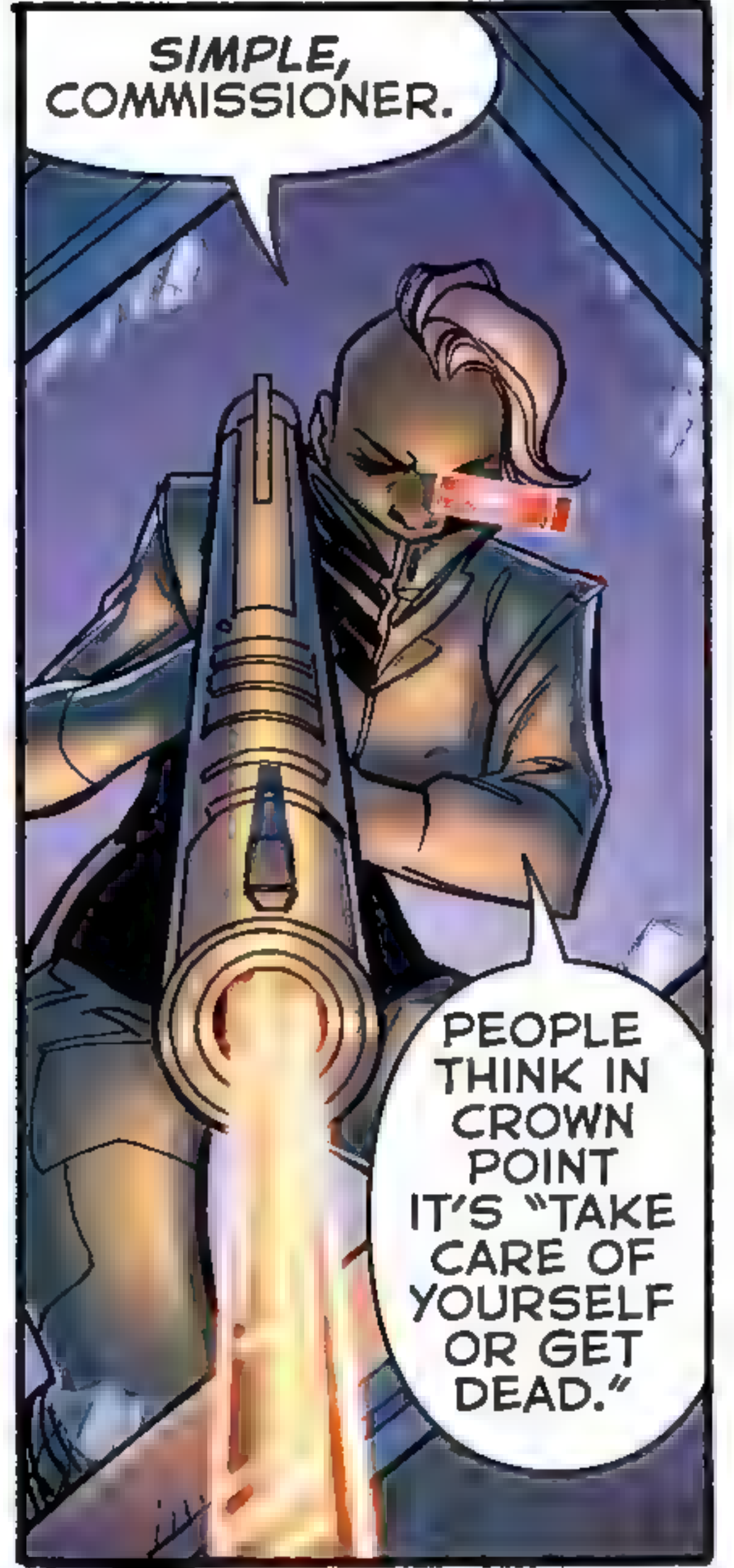


MY MIND
IS MY UTILITY
BELT.



HOW
DID YOU GET
BATGIRL HERE?
WORKING WITH
YOU?

I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR HER
SINCE BROTHER
EYE. SHE'S
IGNORED ME.



SIMPLE,
COMMISSIONER.

PEOPLE
THINK IN
CROWN
POINT
IT'S "TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF
OR GET
DEAD."



BUT IT'S
NOT TRUE. NOT
IF WE DON'T
LET IT BE.

THERE'S
NO SPIN TO
IT. JUST A
PROMISE. A
TRUST THAT
GOES BOTH
WAYS.

SOMEONE
CALLS FOR
HELP? YOU
GIVE IT. ON
THEIR TERMS.
EITHER IN THE
STREETS...



FWIP

...OR
FROM THE
SHADOWS.

THAT
ALL YOU
GOT, GIRL?
LET ME GUESS,
YOU'RE FROM
AROUND
HERE.

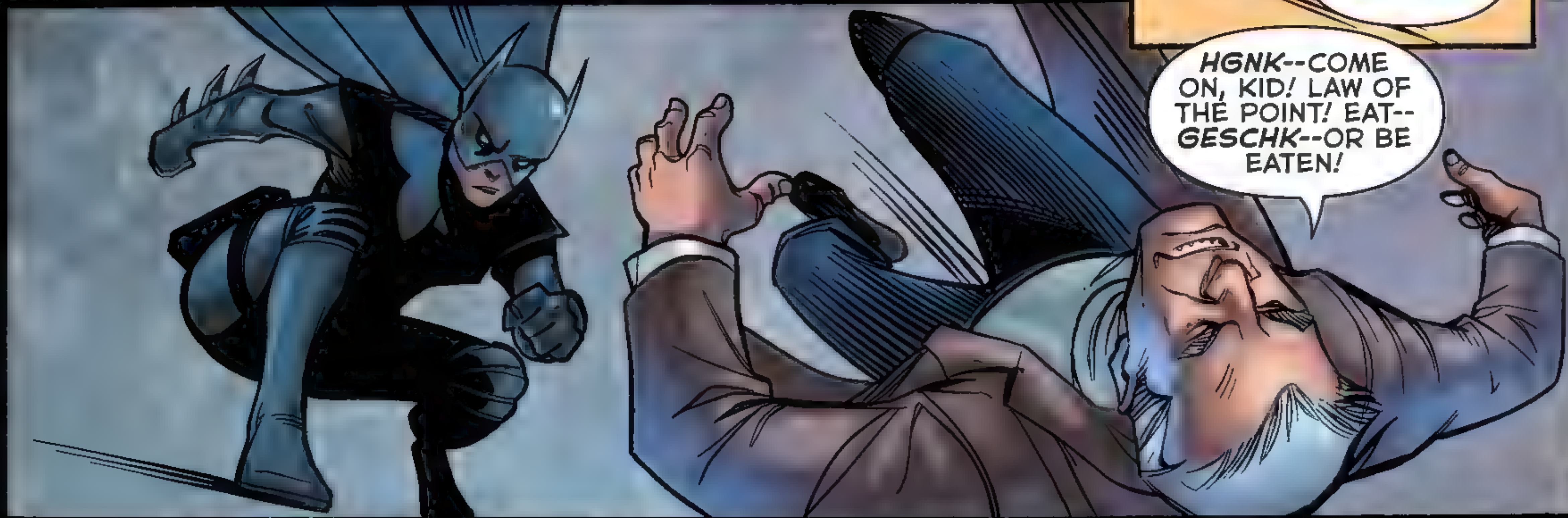
NO WONDER
IT WAS SO EASY
TO TAKE THIS
HOLE OVER.

YOU
PEOPLE
WANT IT.



YOU'RE
ALL WEAK--
HNGAGHK!

HGNK--COME
ON, KID! LAW OF
THE POINT! EAT--
GESCHK--OR BE
EATEN!



DO IT
THEN! TAKE
ME OUT!

YOU
DON'T HAVE
THE GUTS TO
DO IT--TO KILL
ME AND MAKE
THE POINT
SAFE.



WEAK!
PATHETIC!

IT'S LIKE
YOU PEOPLE
WANT TO
BE TAKEN
ADVANTAGE
OF!

SHUT UP,
SHUT UP,
SHUT UP!!!

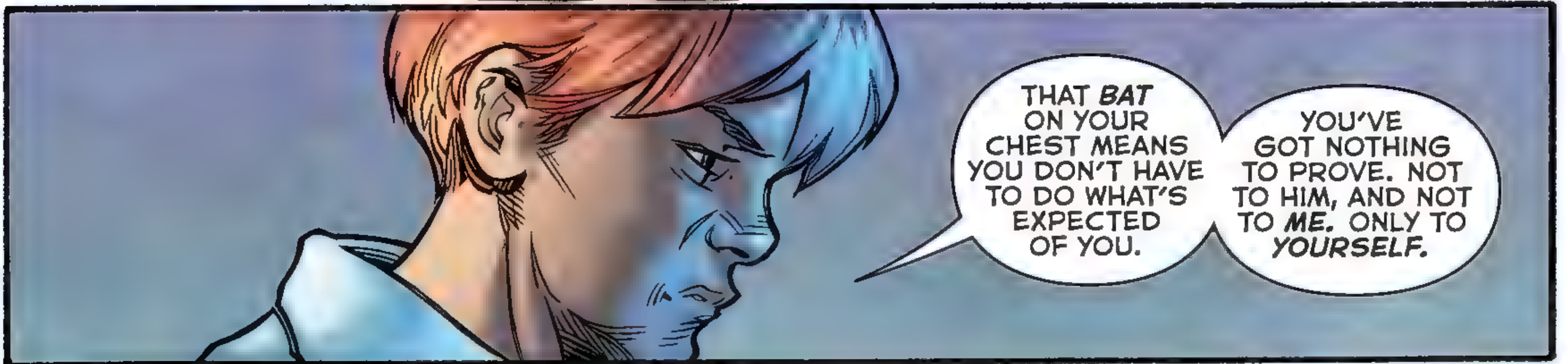
BATGIRL...
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO. AND
YOU COULD.
I KNOW
THAT...





...BUT IT
WOULD JUST
BE MORE OF
THE SAME.

THINK
SHE CARES
ABOUT YOU,
GIRL? ABOUT
THIS
PLACE?



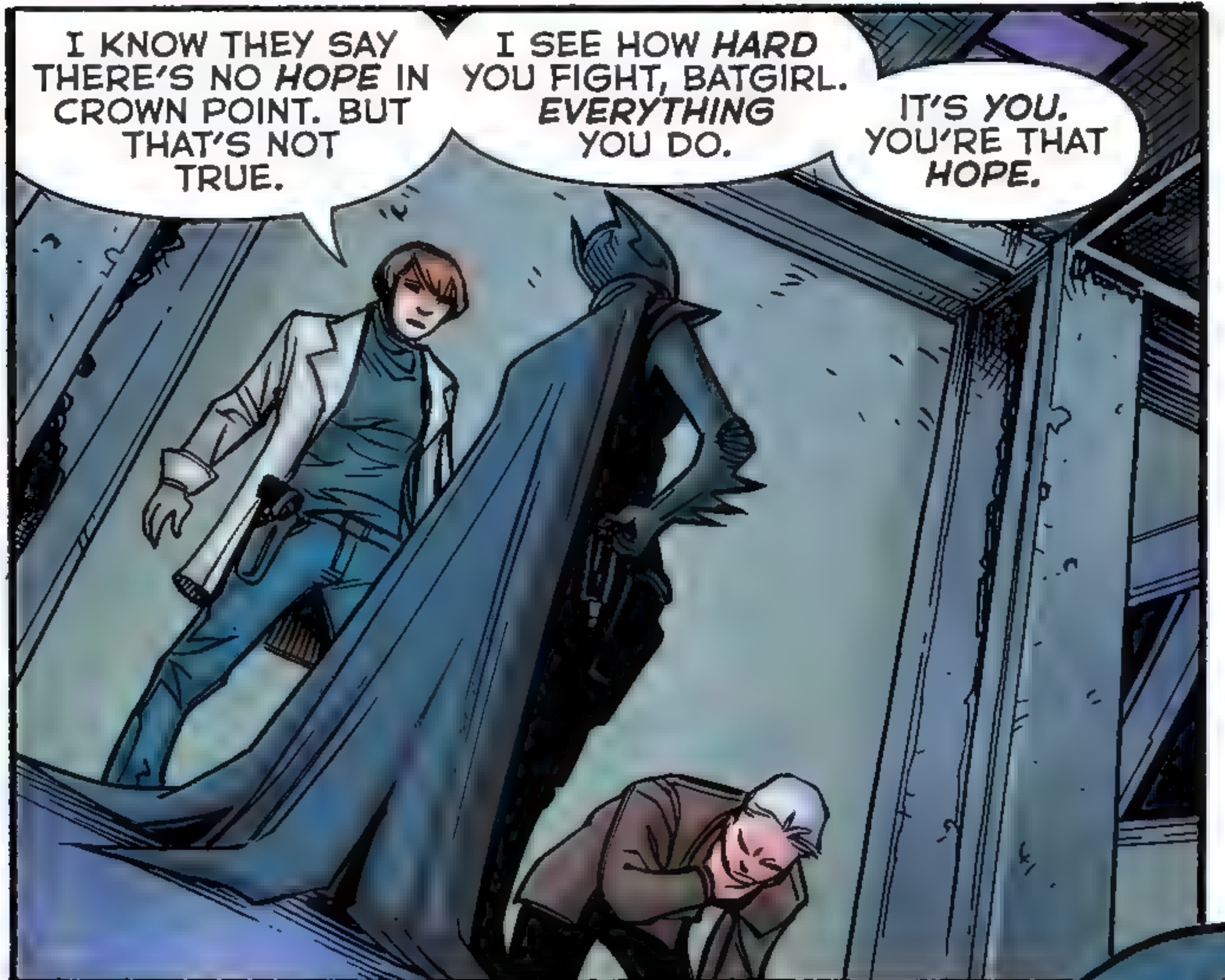
THAT BAT
ON YOUR
CHEST MEANS
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO DO WHAT'S
EXPECTED
OF YOU.

YOU'VE
GOT NOTHING
TO PROVE. NOT
TO HIM, AND NOT
TO ME. ONLY TO
YOURSELF.



WHO ARE
YOU? WHO
ARE THE
PEOPLE OF
CROWN
POINT?

...YOU'RE NOT WORTH IT,
FLASS. AND WE--WE'RE
WORTH MORE.



I KNOW THEY SAY
THERE'S NO HOPE IN
CROWN POINT. BUT
THAT'S NOT
TRUE.

I SEE HOW HARD
YOU FIGHT, BATGIRL.
EVERYTHING
YOU DO.

IT'S YOU.
YOU'RE THAT
HOPE.



THANKS.
I...JUST,
THANK
YOU.

I WANT
YOU TO
KNOW...



"... you do
right by that
symbol."

DAYS LATER.

...MAX.

I REALLY
NEED TO GET
QUIETER
SHOES.

UWIP

CATCH

WHAT
IS THIS?

BIOMETRIC
COMMUNICATOR.
YOU THINK ABOUT
GORDON'S
OFFER?

WE COULD
DO A LOT OF GOOD,
THE THREE OF US.
TOGETHER.

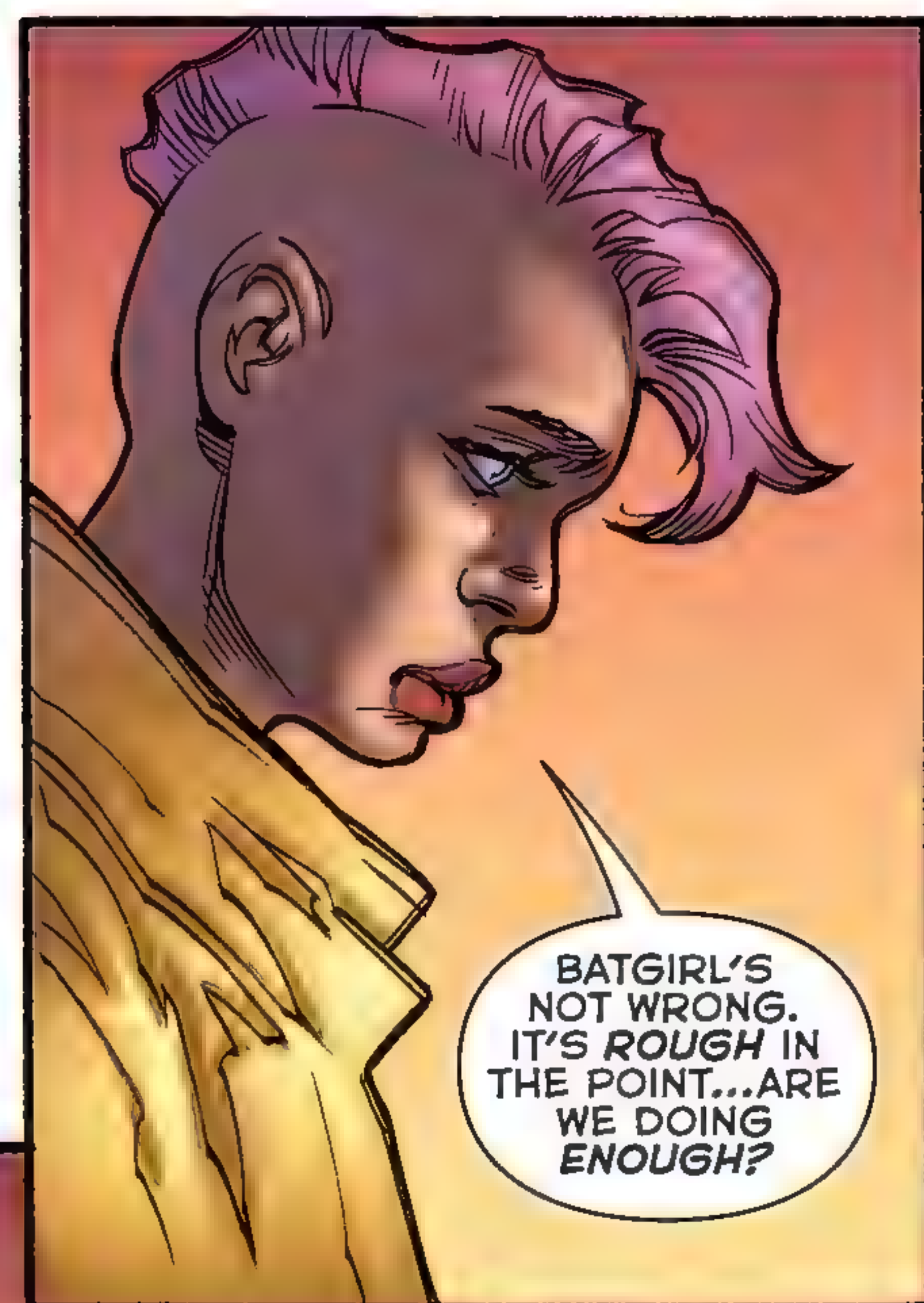
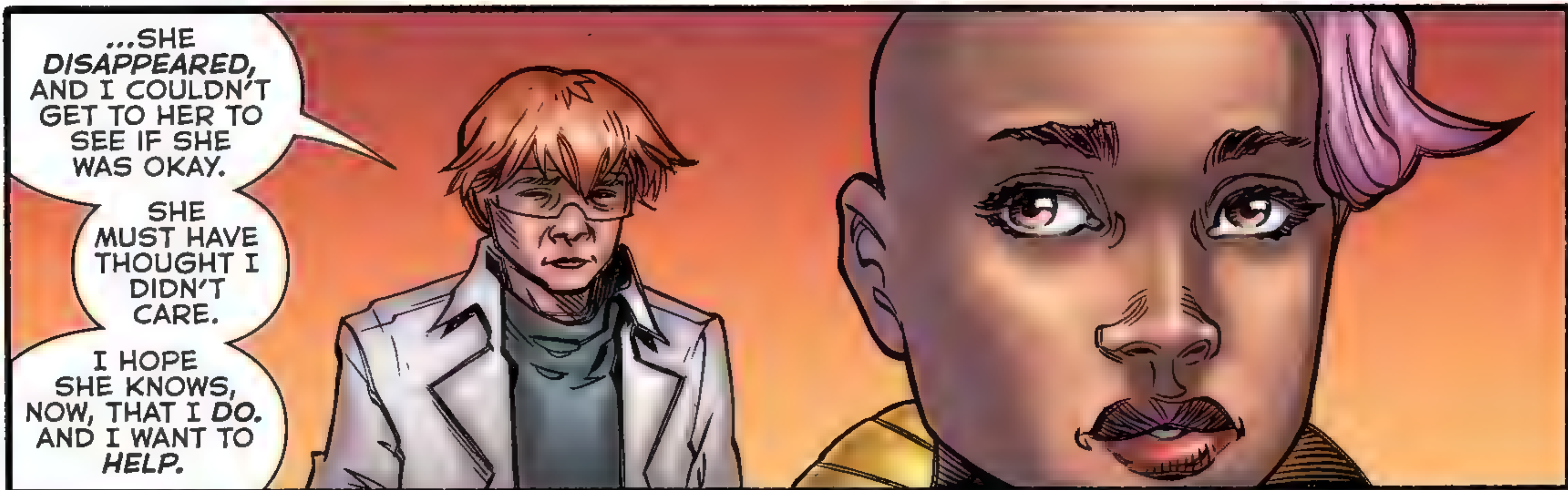
WITHOUT
BATMAN RIDING
SHOTGUN.

MAYBE.

YOU
COULD BE
RIGHT. YOU
ASK ME...

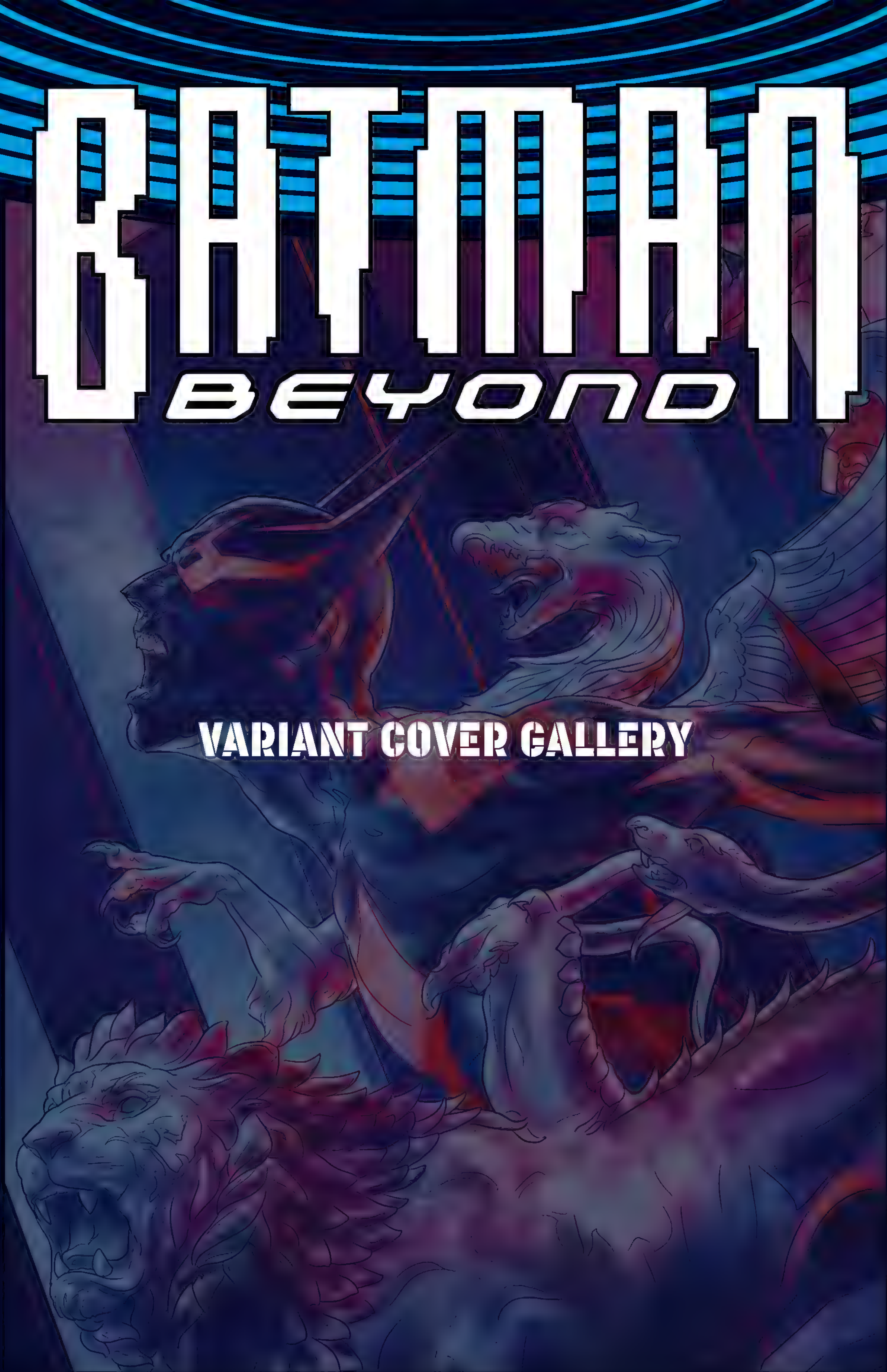


...US
BATWOMEN
COULD DO
JUST FINE.



BATMAN BEYOND

VARIANT COVER GALLERY





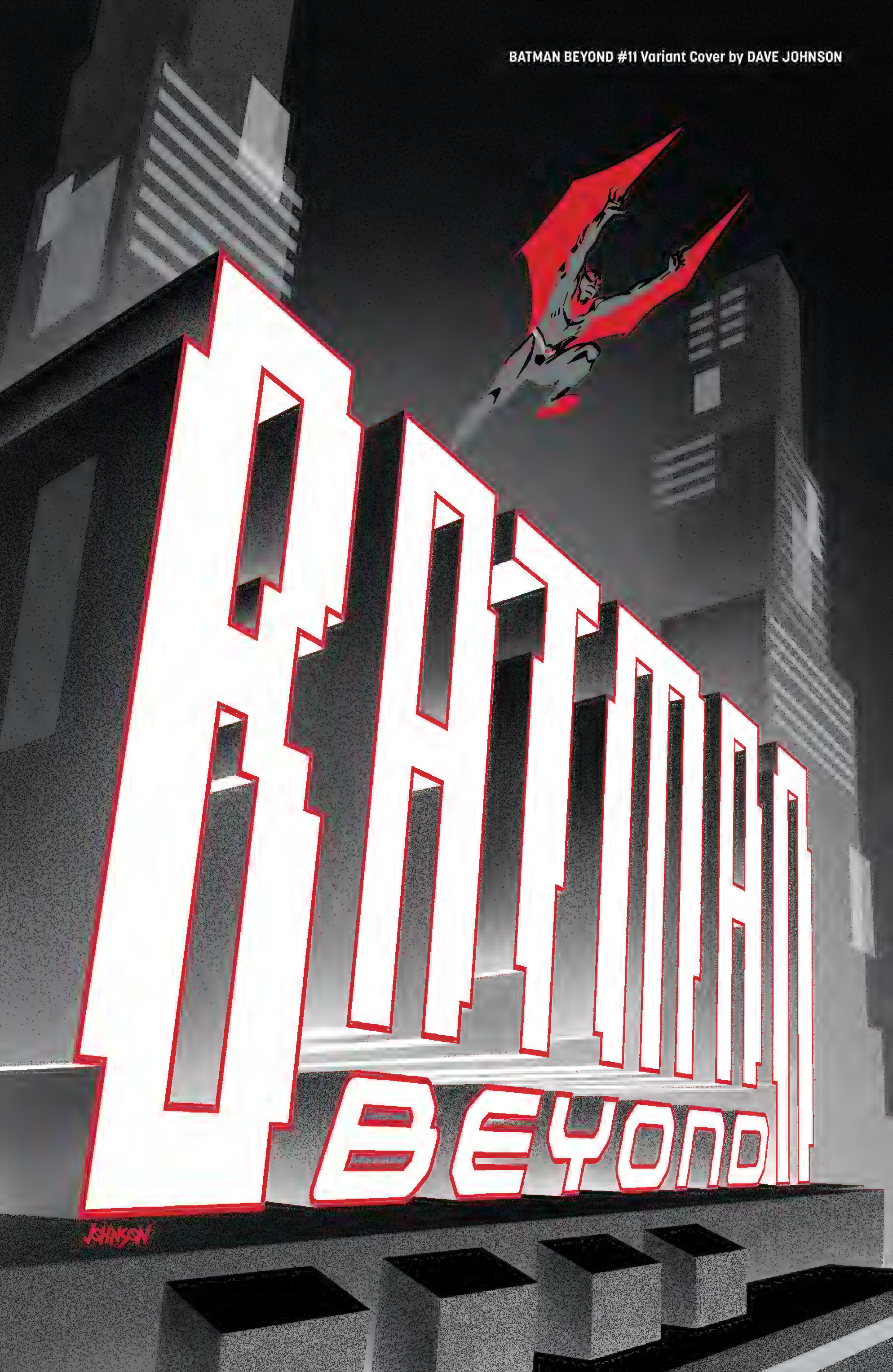


BATMAN BEYOND #7 Variant Cover by MARTIN ANSIN









JOHNSON





BCHANG
maiole

CURARÉ AND NINJA DESIGNS
by Bernard Chang



"Batman Beyond fans get to have their cake, and eat it too." **SCREEN RANT**

THE DEMON LIVES

The Batman of the future is back. Emerging from the rubble of the cataclysm that nearly destroyed the Earth, Terry McGinnis has returned to Gotham City and reclaimed the mantle of the Bat. He's fended off some of his deadliest foes to do it.

But he's about to face an unexpected enemy—an opponent more patient, and more powerful, than any he's ever known.

When the League of Assassins launches an all-out assault on Gotham, Terry must travel to Tibet in his experimental Batsuit and take the fight to their leader—Ra's al Ghul himself.

But when he finally gets his audience with the Demon's Head, he's in for the shock of a lifetime.

Can Terry defeat this shadowy figure and free Bruce Wayne from his nemesis? Or will this all-out war—and the twisted technology of his biomechanical Batsuit—drive him into a darkness he can never escape?

Discover the answer in **BATMAN BEYOND VOL. 2: RISE OF THE DEMON**, from the creative team of **DAN JURGENS** and **BERNARD CHANG**. Exploding from the pages of the blockbuster DC UNIVERSE: REBIRTH event, it's Batman Beyond like you've never seen before. Collects **BATMAN BEYOND #6-12!**

Shadowcat

